

'A pilgrimage with Waitrose carrier bags'



Ian Jack's view from the queue

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Simple tribute
A picture of Elizabeth II with flowers in a window in Windsor

PHOTOGRAPH:
STÉPHANE DE SAKUTIN/AFP/GTETY

World leaders descend as nation prepares for grandest of farewells

● Biggest security operation in history for Queen's funeral in London and Windsor

● Full details revealed for funeral, procession and committal service at castle chapel

● Great-grandchildren George and Charlotte to walk behind coffin in Westminster Abbey

Caroline Davies

The royal family and a nation will today say a "last farewell" to Queen Elizabeth II during a state funeral at Westminster Abbey in which nine-year-old Prince George and his seven-year-old sister, Princess Charlotte, will walk behind their great-grandmother's coffin.

George and Charlotte, now second and third in line to the throne, will follow their parents, the Prince and Princess of Wales, as the coffin is carried through the abbey in front of a 2,000-strong congregation.

Police have described the security operation, with more than 10,000 officers on duty, as the biggest in Britain's history.

The plan emerged when Buckingham Palace released the orders of service for Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral and committal service later at Windsor Castle. Eighteen members of Queen Elizabeth II's family, led by the King and including the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, will take part in the procession.

In a statement, the King said he and the Queen Consort had been "moved beyond measure" by those who had paid their respects to the late Queen. "Over the last 10 days, my wife and I have been so deeply touched by the many messages of condolence and support we have received from this country and across the world."

He added: "As we all prepare to say our last farewell, I wanted simply to take this opportunity to say thank you to all those countless people who

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have been such a support and comfort to my family and myself in this time of grief."

The US president, Joe Biden, visited Westminster Hall to pay his respects to Elizabeth II, attending the lying-in-state with the first lady, Jill Biden, before an official state reception hosted by the King at Buckingham Palace last night for about 500 presidents, prime ministers, members of royal families and other dignitaries who have been invited to attend the state funeral.

The queue to visit the lying-in-state of the Queen was closed just after 10.30pm last night. The announcement had been expected throughout the day, as waiting times hit a peak of 14 hours at 10am. By 9pm the waiting time was seven hours, as the last crowds **4 →**

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News

Cautious response to Ukraine's proposals for Russian reparations

Patrick Wintour
Diplomatic Editor

Ukraine is facing a battle to persuade its western allies, including the UK, to back its proposal for any peace settlement with Moscow to include multibillion-dollar reparations by Russia, in part using seized Russian state and oligarch assets.

Ukraine is lobbying the UN general assembly to adopt a resolution that will become the basis for the creation of an international compensation mechanism that could lead to the seizure of as much as \$300bn (£260bn) of Russian state assets overseas. The US Department of Justice said in June that the US and its allies had frozen \$30bn of Russian elite assets and \$300bn of Russian central bank assets held overseas.

Ukraine's deputy justice minister, Iryna Mudra, was in London last week to discuss the issue with the Foreign Office after lobbying the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, along with Olena Zelenska, the wife of the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelenskiy. A former banker, Mudra has been at the helm of the detailed discussions on reparations, holding talks in Germany, Paris and Brussels, and has had talks with Elizabeth Rosenberg, the US treasury department assistant secretary whose remit includes financial sanctions.



At the end of the meeting in Strasbourg, the council ministers backed the principle of reparations but issued a lukewarm statement, saying it "noted with interest the Ukrainian proposals to establish a comprehensive international compensation mechanism". The US treasury secretary, Janet Yellen, has said reparations would be unlawful under current US law.

Ukraine has become increasingly ambitious for any definition of a military victory to include Russian agreement to reparations - a demand Moscow would resist, complicating any peace negotiations. The issue is separate to establishing a legal mechanism to hold Russian leaders to account for war crimes.

Those close to the talks on reparations in London came away with an impression that British enthusiasm

▲ The Princess of Wales, left, with Olena Zelenska, first lady of Ukraine, at Buckingham Palace yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH:
KIRSTY O'CONNOR/AP

[Ministers] noted with interest the Ukrainian proposals for a mechanism'

Council of Europe Statement

No 10 chief of staff part of FBI inquiry into accused banker

Andrew Sparrow
Political correspondent

Mark Fullbrook, the new Downing Street chief of staff, has been interviewed by the FBI as a witness about work he did for a banker accused of bribery, it emerged yesterday.

Fullbrook was working as a political consultant when he provided research in 2020 for Julio Herrera Velutini, a Venezuelan-Italian banker accused of bribing the governor of Puerto Rico around the same time.

A senior organiser in Conservative party politics for decades, who was appointed chief of staff at No 10 after running Liz Truss's leadership campaign, Fullbrook insists he did not break the law and that he was not aware that his then client may have

had corrupt motives for hiring him as a consultant.

According to the US indictment, Herrera Velutini offered to contribute to Wanda Vázquez Garced's campaign for re-election as governor of Puerto Rico in return for Vázquez Garced sacking the island's financial regulator, who was investigating Herrera



▲ Mark Fullbrook provided research for a banker accused of bribery

Velutini's bank. It is alleged that Herrera Velutini offered support worth \$300,000.

The launch of the proceedings in the US provoked controversy in the UK because Britannia Financial Services, a company set up and largely owned by Herrera Velutini, has given more than £500,000 to the Conservative party since 2019. Labour said that in the light of the allegations against the banker, the Tories should give the money back.

Herrera Velutini denies wrongdoing and is contesting the charges against him, which have a total maximum penalty of 20 years in jail.

Fullbrook is involved because at the time he was working for CT, a political consultancy founded by Sir Lynton Crosby, who has run general election campaigns for several Tory leaders. Herrera Velutini was paying CT for consultancy services that might help Vázquez Garced in her re-election bid.

A spokesperson for Fullbrook said he obeyed the law in all countries where he worked and he was

for the plan in principle is in the balance, given the potential legal and property rights issues involved.

It is argued that if Russian central bank assets are appropriated, as opposed to simply being frozen, any western assets held overseas could also be seized. State property is protected under the doctrine of state immunity, a principle endorsed in UN articles in 2011, which provides a foreign state with immunity from the jurisdiction of domestic courts.

In May, in conjunction with Columbia Law School, Ukraine set up an international claims and reparations project including the British barrister Alison Macdonald, former Department of State legal adviser Jeremy Sharpe and two Columbia professors, Lori Damrosch and Patrick Pearsall. They claim there is a historical precedent for seizure of Russian state assets, pointing to compensation claims made against Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait, compensation paid by Iran to the US over the embassy hostage crisis and the recent US seizure of Afghanistan's central bank assets.

Ukraine accepts that at present Russian state assets overseas enjoy sovereign immunity, but believes this can be changed through national legislation. It says a second process is required to seize assets of Russian companies or oligarchs.

Yellen's claim that the US does not have the legal authority to seize Russian assets is partly because the US is not engaged in armed hostilities with Russia, and does not contest Russia's lawful ownership of the assets.

Others say there are laws the US could deploy, such as the Trading with the Enemy Act. Reparations have been backed by the finance ministers of Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia and Slovakia. Liz Truss expressed support for the idea when she was the UK foreign secretary, but has not commented recently.

UK and European sanctions legislation allows states to freeze the assets of the Russian central bank and some oligarchs, but does not provide for their permanent seizure, let alone their unilateral transfer to a fund to rebuild Ukraine.

confident he had done so in this case too. "Indeed, Mark Fullbrook is a witness in this matter and has fully, completely and voluntarily engaged with the US authorities in this matter, as he would always do in any circumstance in which his assistance is sought by authorities."

According to the spokesperson, Fullbrook did not know of Herrera Velutini's alleged intention to bribe the governor when CT was working for him and Fullbrook only learned about this allegation in April 2022.

The spokesperson also said that, while Fullbrook did meet Vázquez Garced, he never produced any work for her, and the opinion research carried out by the company was provided to Herrera Velutini.

As the US Department of Justice disclosed in August, two people - a banker and a political consultant from Puerto Rico - have already pleaded guilty to conspiring with Herrera Velutini to bribe a public official.

Downing Street declined to comment on the story.



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022

'They gathered ten-deep' – Carol Ann Duffy's royal tribute

The former poet laureate – who was appointed by the Queen in 2009 – has written a poem, shared exclusively here, to mark the monarch's death



Daughter

by Carol Ann Duffy

*Your mother's daughter, you set your face
to the road
that ran by the river; behind you, the castle,
its mute ballroom,
lowered flag. Stoic, your profile a head on a coin,
you followed the hearse
through sorrow's landscape - a farmer, stood
on a tractor,
lifting his tweed cap; a group of anglers
shouldering their rods.
And now the villagers, silently raising
their mobile phones.
Then babies held aloft in the towns, to one day
be told they were there.*

*But you had your mother's eyes, as a horse ran free
in a field;
a pheasant flared from a hedge
like a thrown bouquet;
journeying on through a harvest of strange love.
How they craned to glimpse their lives again
in her death, reminded
of Time's relentless removals, their own bereavements,
as she passed.
The uplift of the high bridge over a dazzle of water;
a sense of ascending
into anointing light which dissolved into cloud.
Nine more slow grey miles to the Old Town; the last mile
a royal mile,*

*where they gathered ten-deep as your mother showed you
what she had meant.
Nightfall and downpour near London. Even the motorways paused;
thousands of headlights in rain
as you shadowed her still; smatterings of applause
from verges and bridges.
Soon enough they would come to know this had long been
the Age of Grief,
that History was ahead of them. The crown of ice melting
on the roof of the world.
Tonight, childhood's palace; the iPhone torches linking back
to medieval flame.
So you slowed and arrived with her, her only daughter,
and only her daughter.*



PHOTOGRAPH: RANALD MACKENZIE/PA

A final portrait On the eve of her state funeral, the palace has released a previously unseen portrait of the Queen taken at Windsor, where she spent most of her final years. The matching aquamarine and diamond clip brooches were gifts from her parents on her 18th birthday. The photograph was taken in May, four months before her death.

Minute's silence takes place on night before Queen's funeral

Gemma McSherry

A national moment of mourning was last night observed across the UK for Queen Elizabeth II.

The moment of silence, which took place at 8pm, was held in memory of the monarch and saw mourners across the UK come together to pay tribute.

In a pre-recorded interview, which was broadcast on the BBC shortly

before the silence, Camilla, the Queen Consort, spoke of the Queen's strength as a "solitary woman" in "a male-dominated world".

A service of reflection took place at the Kelpies sculptures near Falkirk, at which 96 lanterns, one to represent each year of the Queen's life, and wreaths were placed into a pool at the foot of the Queen Elizabeth II Canal.

In Chester, more than 100 people gathered for a vigil and short ceremony in Town Hall Square.

Hundreds came together at the

gates of Hillsborough Castle in Northern Ireland, and people also attended a service at West Belfast Orange Hall.

In the queue for the Queen's lying in state, dozens of Metropolitan police officers assembled in silence beside mourners and later sang the national anthem.

The prime minister, Liz Truss, participated in the national moment of reflection from Downing Street, while remembrance events were hosted in community spaces around the UK.

Big Ben did not strike before and after the silence as originally planned. A UK parliament spokesperson said: "We are investigating this as a matter of urgency but are confident that it will not affect the tolling tomorrow during the state funeral procession."



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926-2022

Biggest security operation ever as UK prepares for grandest farewell

◀ Continued from page 1

filed through. The final mourner was expected to view the coffin at 6.30am.

The Queen's coffin, surmounted by the imperial state crown, the orb and the sceptre, will this morning be placed before the same altar where she married Prince Philip and where she made her coronation oath. Both services include some deeply personal touches, with the Queen having been consulted.

At the start of the service, the Five Sentences, lines of scripture set to music, will be sung as they have been at every state funeral since the early part of the 18th century. A specially commissioned choral piece, composed by the master of the king's music, Judith Weir, Like as the Hart, is a setting of Psalm 42 to music.

The hymns chosen are The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended; The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want, which was also sung at the wedding of the then Princess Elizabeth and Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, in 1947, and Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.

A short anthem, O Taste and See How Gracious the Lord Is, was composed by Ralph Vaughan Williams for the Queen's coronation in 1953.

The archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, will deliver the sermon. The prime minister, Liz Truss, will read from John 14: 1-9a, while the secretary general of the Commonwealth, Lady Scotland, will read from 1 Corinthians 15: 20-26.

After the Last Post, a two-minute silence and the Reveille, the national anthem will be sung. The service will end with the Queen's Piper, Paul Burns, playing Sleep, Dearie, Sleep. Afterwards, the bells of Westminster Abbey will be rung, fully muffled, as is the tradition following the funeral of the sovereign.

Prince George, said to call his great grandmother "Gan Gan", and Princess Charlotte are not due to join the procession during the later service of committal at St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, which will be attended by 800 people.



◀ Members of the public on the Long Walk, Windsor, observe the national minute's silence in memory of Queen Elizabeth II

PHOTOGRAPH:
ANDREW
MATTHEWS/PA

During the service, the dean of Windsor, David Conner, will read Revelation 21, verses 1-7, which was read at the funerals of the Queen's grandparents, King George V in 1936 and Queen Mary in 1953, as well as at her father's funeral in 1952.

The dean will also pay tribute to the late Queen in the bidding. "Here, in St George's chapel, where she so often worshipped, we are bound to call to mind someone whose uncomplicated yet profound Christian faith bore so much fruit," he will say.

"Fruit, in a life of unstinting service to the nation, the commonwealth and the wider world, but also (and especially to be remembered in this place) in kindness, concern and reassuring care for her family and friends and neighbours. In the midst of our rapidly changing and frequently troubled world, her calm and dignified presence has given us confidence to face the future, as she did, with courage and with hope."

During the service, the imperial state crown, orb and sceptre will be removed from the coffin and placed on the high altar. The Queen's Company camp colour will be placed on the coffin by the King, and the lord chamberlain will break his wand of office, which will then be placed upon the coffin.

The coffin will then be lowered into the royal vault, as the Garter King at Arms reads aloud Queen Elizabeth II's styles and titles. The Queen's piper will play a lament. She will be buried next to the Duke of Edinburgh in the King George VI Memorial chapel in a private ceremony attended by family later in the evening.

In a televised tribute, recorded before the Queen's death, the Queen Consort said: "It must have been so difficult for her being a solitary woman, and there weren't women prime minister or women president, she was the only one, so I think she carved her own role."

Andrew also paid tribute to his mother, hailing her "knowledge and wisdom infinite", adding: "I will miss your insights, advice and humour."



The funeral Order of service at Westminster

The funeral of Queen Elizabeth II

The service is conducted by Dr David Hoyle, the dean of Westminster. Before the service, Westminster Abbey's tenor bell will be tolled every minute for 96 minutes, representing each year of the Queen's life.

● Music before the service includes Romanza (Symphony No 5 in D) by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) and Reliqui domum meum by Peter Maxwell Davies (1934-2016)

Order of service

The Sentences, sung by the Choir of Westminster Abbey as the procession of the coffin moves through the abbey. David Hoyle gives the bidding

Hymn

The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended

The first lesson

Read by Patricia Scotland, the secretary-general of the Commonwealth. The choir sings Psalm 42: 1-7 to music composed by Judith Weir



The second lesson

Read by the prime minister, Liz Truss - John 14: 1-9a

Hymn

The Lord's My Shepherd

The sermon

Read by Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury

John Sentamu Late monarch wasn't fond of 'long and boring', says ex-archbishop

Harriet Sherwood

The Queen's plea to avoid a "long, boring" funeral service will be answered today with a relatively concise but stirring send-off that includes familiar hymns and traditional Bible readings.

John Sentamu, the former archbishop of York, revealed yesterday that the Queen "did not want what you call long, boring services". He added: "You're not going to find boredom, but you're going to be lifted to glory as you hear the service."

Sentamu, who had first sight of plans for the Queen's funeral

in 2005 when he became an archbishop and a member of the privy council, said the service would be rooted in the Book of Common Prayer.

"What you're going to expect is the best of funeral services, the prayer book service, the words which were an inspiration to Shakespeare," he told the BBC

'You're not going to find boredom, but you're going to be lifted to glory'

John Sentamu Former archbishop of York

programme Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg. "You're going to hear this wonderful English at its best. Also, you're going to hear angelic voices of the choir of the abbey plus the Chapels Royal ... voices that are singing to the glory of God."

Today's hour-long service will include the main hallmarks of a traditional Anglican funeral, including the hymns The Lord is My Shepherd - said to be a favourite of the Queen - from Psalm 23; Love Divine, All Loves Excelling; and The Day Thou Gavest, Lord, Is Ended.

The Very Rev David Hoyle, dean of Westminster Abbey, will open the service with the words: "Here, where Queen Elizabeth was married and crowned, we gather from across the nation, from the Commonwealth, and



◀ The choir and dignitaries watch the Queen's coffin arriving at Westminster Hall. Above and far left, rehearsals last week. Below, Liz Truss will read a lesson
PHOTOGRAPH: PHIL NOBLE/AFP/GTET

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

The commendation By the archbishop of Canterbury

The blessing

The Last Post

Reveille

God Save the King

The Queen's piper, Warrant Officer Class 1 (Pipe Major) Paul Burns, plays Sleep, Dearie, Sleep

All remain standing as the coffin and processions leave the abbey

Fantasia in C minor BWV 562 by Johann Sebastian Bach

Music after the service
Allegro maestoso (Sonata in G Op 28) Edward Elgar



▲ Music by Edward Elgar will be played after the service has finished

The anthem

My Soul, There Is a Country, from Hubert Parry's Songs of Farewell

The prayers

Led by Rev Mark Birch, who is the minor canon and precentor of Westminster Abbey

Prayers read by:

- Rev Iain Greenshields, the moderator of the general assembly of the Church of Scotland
- Shermara Fletcher, of Churches Together in England
- Rt Rev and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally, the bishop

of London and Dean of His Majesty's Chapels Royal

- Rev Canon Helen Cameron, the moderator of the Free Churches Group
- His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the archbishop of Westminster
- Stephen Cottrell, the archbishop of York

from the nations of the world, to mourn our loss, to remember her long life of selfless service, and in sure confidence to commit her to the mercy of God our maker and redeemer."

The sermon will be given by Justin Welby, the archbishop of Canterbury. The prime minister, Liz Truss, will read Jesus's words from John: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you."

A procession of faith representatives will be led by Marie van der Zyl, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Representatives of Muslim, Sikh, Hindu, Zoroastrian, Buddhist, Jain and the Bahá'í communities will take part. Representatives of churches in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will join those from different Christian traditions in England, including the Roman Catholic church and black majority Pentecostal churches.

'Mummy, Your Majesty'

Duke of York pays tribute to the Queen

Robert Booth

Social affairs correspondent

The Duke of York has paid tribute to the Queen in an emotional statement on the eve of her funeral that began: "Dear Mummy, Mother, Your Majesty, three in one."

Prince Andrew, the Queen's second-eldest son, who has been stripped of royal duties over his relationship with the convicted sexual abuser Jeffrey Epstein, said: "Your Majesty, it has been an honour and privilege to serve you.

"Mother of the nation, your

devotion and personal service to our nation is unique and singular; your people show their love and respect in so many different ways and I know you are looking on, honouring their respect.

"Mummy, your love for a son, your compassion, your care, your confidence I will treasure forever. I have found your knowledge and wisdom infinite, with no boundary or containment. I will miss your insights, advice and humour."

The statement was circulated by a public relations advisor who has been assisting the duke during the scandal over Epstein and the sexual assault case filed against Andrew in the US by Virginia Giuffre, which he settled out of court for an undisclosed sum. Alongside it was a photograph of the Queen holding the infant Andrew shortly after his birth in 1960.

Andrew has not been allowed to wear military uniform at ceremonies in the wake of the Queen's death, as he is no longer a working royal, a consequence of the Epstein scandal.

The out-of-court settlement in February involved no admission of



▲ Andrew is no longer a working royal after the Epstein scandal

guilt over Giuffre's claims he sexually assaulted her on three occasions when she was 17, allegations he has repeatedly denied.

The Duke of York will walk alongside his older sister, Anne, the Princess Royal; his younger brother, the Duke of Wessex, and King Charles III behind the Queen's coffin today when it is taken from Westminster

Hall to Westminster Abbey.

He will take up the same position again from the Abbey to Wellington Arch before a transfer by car to St George's Chapel at Windsor for a service of committal and then private interment of the Queen alongside Prince Philip.

He concluded his statement: "As our book of experiences closes, another opens, and I will forever hold you close to my heart with my deepest love and gratitude, and I will tread gladly into the next with you as my guide. God save the King."

It follows a statement from his daughters, Beatrice and Eugenie, to their "dearest Grannie", which described her as "our matriarch, our guide, our loving hand on our backs leading us through this world".

"We're so happy you're back with Grandpa," they said. "Goodbye dear Grannie, it has been the honour of our lives to have been your granddaughters and we're so very proud of you. We know that dear Uncle Charles, the King, will continue to lead in your example as he too has dedicated his life to service."

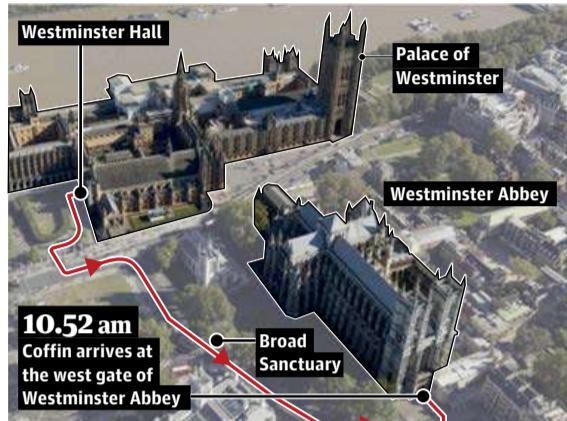


Death of Queen Elizabeth II

1926–2022

10.44 am

The Queen's coffin will leave Westminster Hall and make the short journey to Westminster Abbey, where the funeral is to take place. King Charles and other members of the royal family will walk behind the coffin, accompanied by members of the King's household

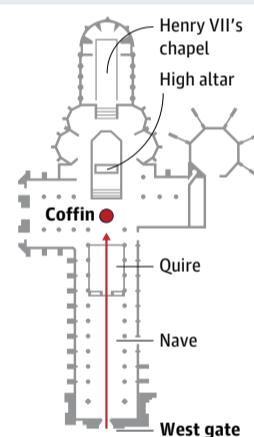


Who's leading the ceremony

The service will be conducted by the **dean of Westminster, David Hoyle**, with the **archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby** giving the sermon. It will include prayers and a reading from **Liz Truss, the prime minister**. Towards the end of the ceremony, at 11.55am, the Last Post will sound, followed by a two-minute silence observed in the abbey and across the UK

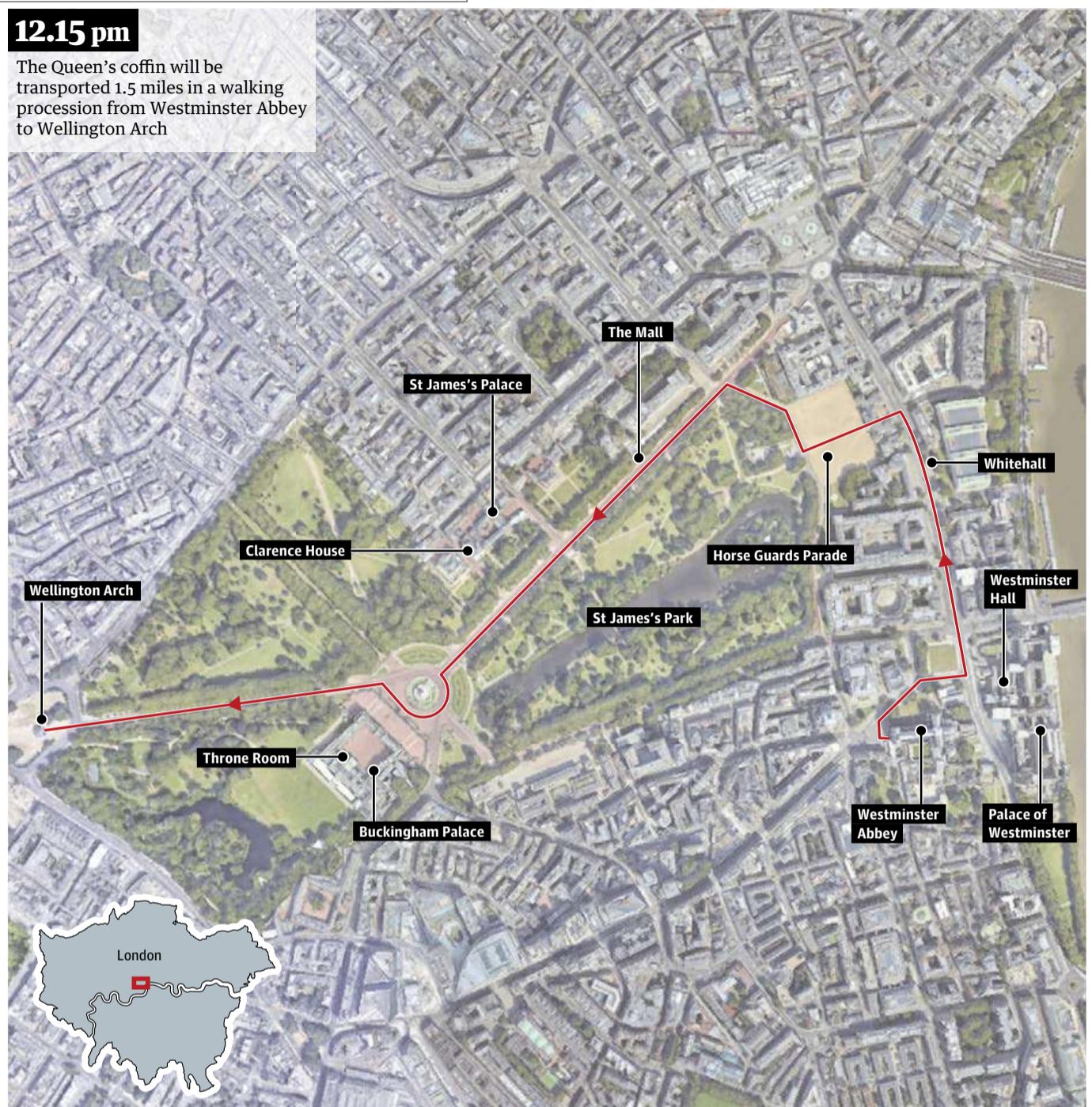
11 am

The funeral service will begin The doors to Westminster Abbey will have opened at 8am to allow guests to take their seats. Symbolic artefacts, including the Sovereign's Orb, which is presented to British monarchs during their coronation, will be on display



12.15 pm

The Queen's coffin will be transported 1.5 miles in a walking procession from Westminster Abbey to Wellington Arch



Funeral procession Timetable for today, from Westminster to burial

Tobi Thomas

The first state funeral since Winston Churchill's in 1965 will take place today for Queen Elizabeth II. Here is a guide of what will happen at key moments throughout the day.

6.30am
The Queen's lying in state, in which her closed coffin has been on view to the public at Westminster Hall since Wednesday, ends. An estimated 300,000 people have queued to pay their respects, with the wait time reaching an estimated 22 hours.

8am
Westminster Abbey will open to the congregation attending the

Queen's funeral, which will be one of the largest gathering of heads of state and royalty the UK has hosted in a decade, and will include royal families from across Europe as well as world leaders.

10.30am
The coffin will be carried by the gun carriage from Westminster Hall to the Abbey, being towed by 98 sailors from the Royal Navy. The tradition dates back to the funeral of Queen Victoria in 1901.

10.44am
King Charles III, joined by royal family members as well as members of the royal household, will follow the coffin as it makes its journey from Westminster Hall to the Abbey.

10.52am
The procession will arrive at West Gate of Westminster Abbey, and

the bearer party, which is made up by members of the Queen's guard, will carry the coffin from the gun carriage and into the funeral service.

At the same time, guns will be fired in Hyde Park by the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery, while Big Ben will toll every one minute during this period.

11am
The service, which will be led by



▲ Big Ben will toll as the coffin is carried into Westminster Abbey

the dean of Westminster, David Hoyle, will begin. The sermon will be delivered by archbishop of Canterbury.

11.55am
The Last Post will sound, and will be followed by a two-minute silence.

Noon
The national anthem will be played, bringing the state funeral service to a close. The coffin will then be taken to the state gun carriage.

12.15pm
The procession, to be led by King Charles III, will be made up of several groups, with each accompanied by a service band.

These groups include representatives from the National Health Service, members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, as well as detachments

from the armed forces of the Commonwealth.

1pm
The procession will arrive at Wellington Arch and the bearer party will transfer the coffin to the hearse before it leaves for Windsor. There will be a royal salute and the national anthem will be played.

3.40pm
King Charles III, accompanied by other members of the royal family, will join the procession at the Quadrangle on the North, with members of the royal household positioned at the rear of the coffin.

The King and the Queen Consort and other members of the royal family will then travel to Windsor.

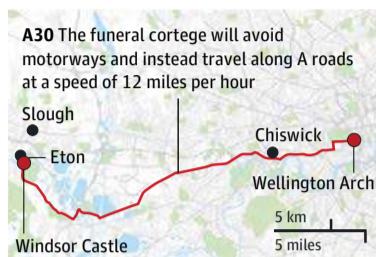
3.53pm
The procession will arrive at Windsor, and will halt at St George's chapel at Windsor Castle.

7.30pm
A private burial service will be conducted by the dean of Windsor, attended by just the King and the royal family.

The coffin will then be laid to rest at St George's chapel, alongside Prince Phillip and her parents, King George VI and the Queen Mother.

1 pm

The coffin will be transferred to a hearse before making a 25-mile journey to Windsor Castle

**4 pm****A committal service conducted by the dean of Windsor**

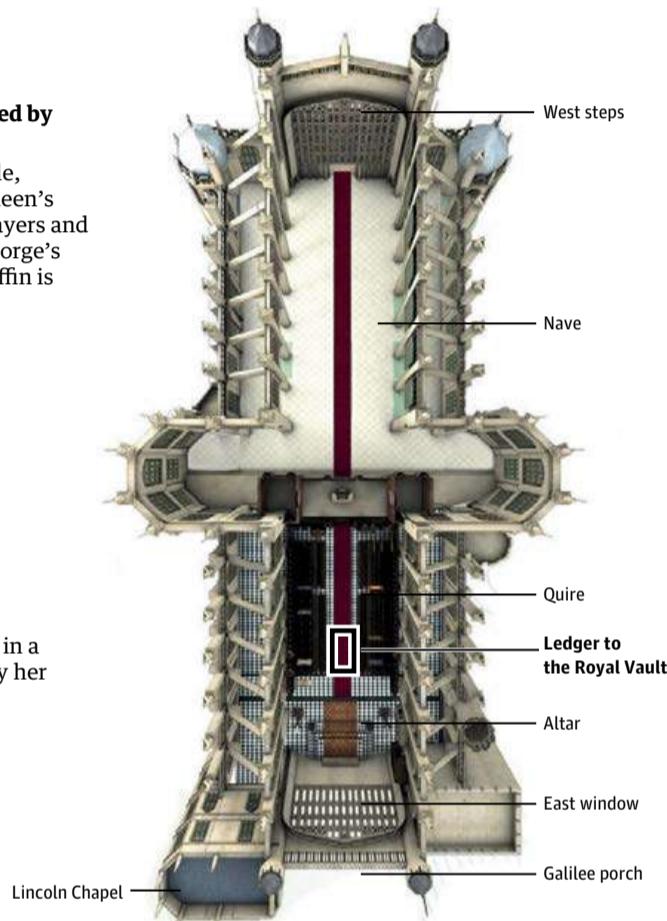
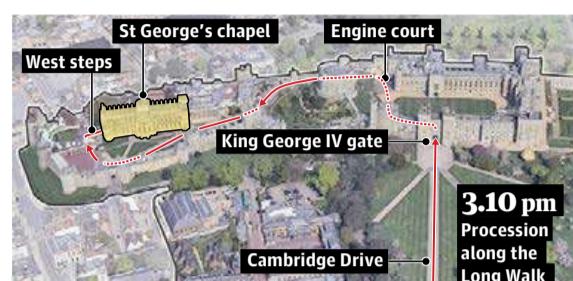
Attended by about 800 people, including members of the Queen's household. It will include prayers and music from the choir of St George's chapel before the Queen's coffin is lowered into the Royal Vault

7.30 pm

The Queen will be laid to rest in a private ceremony attended by her family in the King George VI Memorial chapel. She will be buried with her husband, the Duke of Edinburgh

3.06 pm

The hearse will arrive at the castle just after 3pm, and will travel in procession to St George's chapel, which sits within the walls of Windsor Castle, via the Long Walk



Source: Reuters. Map images: Google Earth. Image data: Landsat/Copernicus

St George's chapel**The venue for the Queen's final funeral service**

The final service for the royal family before the Queen's burial will be held at St George's chapel at Windsor Castle.

Construction of the chapel was started by Edward IV in 1475 and completed by Henry VIII in 1528.

The chapel is the spiritual home of the Order of the Garter, founded by Edward III in 1348. The Queen, installed as a member in 1948, attended an annual service of thanksgiving on Garter Day most years.

It was the place where, four times during her reign, she

▼ Completed in 1528 by Henry VIII, St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle will be the final resting place of the Queen and Prince Philip

distributed the Maundy money to recipients from across the UK.

The chapel has also been the venue for numerous family occasions, including the confirmation of the Duke of Cambridge in 1997, the weddings of three grandchildren - Peter Phillips, the Duke of Sussex and Princess Eugenie - and the funeral of Prince Philip.

After the service, the Queen's final resting place will be in the King George VI memorial chapel, an annexe to St George's chapel. It was commissioned by the Queen in 1962, in line with her late father's wishes of not wanting to be buried long-term in the Royal Vault. There, she will join her father, George VI, the Queen Mother and her sister, Princess Margaret. Prince Philip is in the Royal Vault but will be moved to lie beside his wife in the chapel.

It was designed by George Pace and was completed in 1969. It is a simple, intimate place, just 5.5 metres (18ft) high and 3 metres (10ft) wide with a depth of 4.25 metres (14ft).



Pomp and circumstance

The steps leading to a new chapter for the monarchy

Rachel Hall

Preparations for the Queen's funeral have gripped the nation for more than a week. After she is buried, a new chapter will begin: the reign of King Charles III. But what are the steps to getting there?

What happens after the funeral?

After the funeral in Westminster the Queen's coffin will be transferred to Windsor Castle, where there will be a committal service in St George's chapel. She will be buried in the castle's King George VI memorial chapel, alongside her father, her mother, and her sister's ashes.

The coffin of her late husband, Prince Philip, who died last year, will also be moved from the royal vault in St George's chapel to be interred with the Queen, as the couple requested.

When is the coronation of King Charles III?

When the Queen died, the throne passed immediately to Charles. He will formally be crowned king at the coronation, which could take place next spring or summer in Westminster Abbey. Unlike royal weddings, the coronation is a state occasion: the government pays for it, and chooses the guest list.

What crown will he wear?

The archbishop of Canterbury will place St Edward's crown, which dates from 1661, on King Charles's head. The solid gold crown is studded with 444 coloured gemstones, including rubies, garnets, sapphires and tourmalines, filled with a purple velvet centre and trimmed with fur. It is worn by the monarch only at the moment of coronation itself, in part because it weighs 2.23kg (5lbs).



St Edward's crown



The coronation ring

1910, King George V added the Cullinan I diamond, a 3,106-carat stone unearthed in South Africa in 1905. King Charles will also receive two gold armills to symbolise the monarch's bond with the people.

Where will King Charles live?

About 100 employees of Clarence House, where King Charles and Camilla, now the Queen Consort, had lived until the Queen's death, have received notification they could lose their jobs because he will no longer live there.

There has not yet been any official announcement, but it is expected that the new monarch will live at Buckingham Palace, which the King is understood to consider an important symbol of the monarchy.

However, Buckingham Palace is undergoing a £369m, taxpayer-funded refurbishment that will not be completed until 2027. This could mean that King Charles and Camilla delay their move.

What will change under King Charles III?

As king of a constitutional monarchy, Charles cannot change that much as only parliament can make and pass legislation. This system is underpinned by an expectation that the King will remain politically neutral, though he is known as an impassioned champion of causes including the climate crisis.

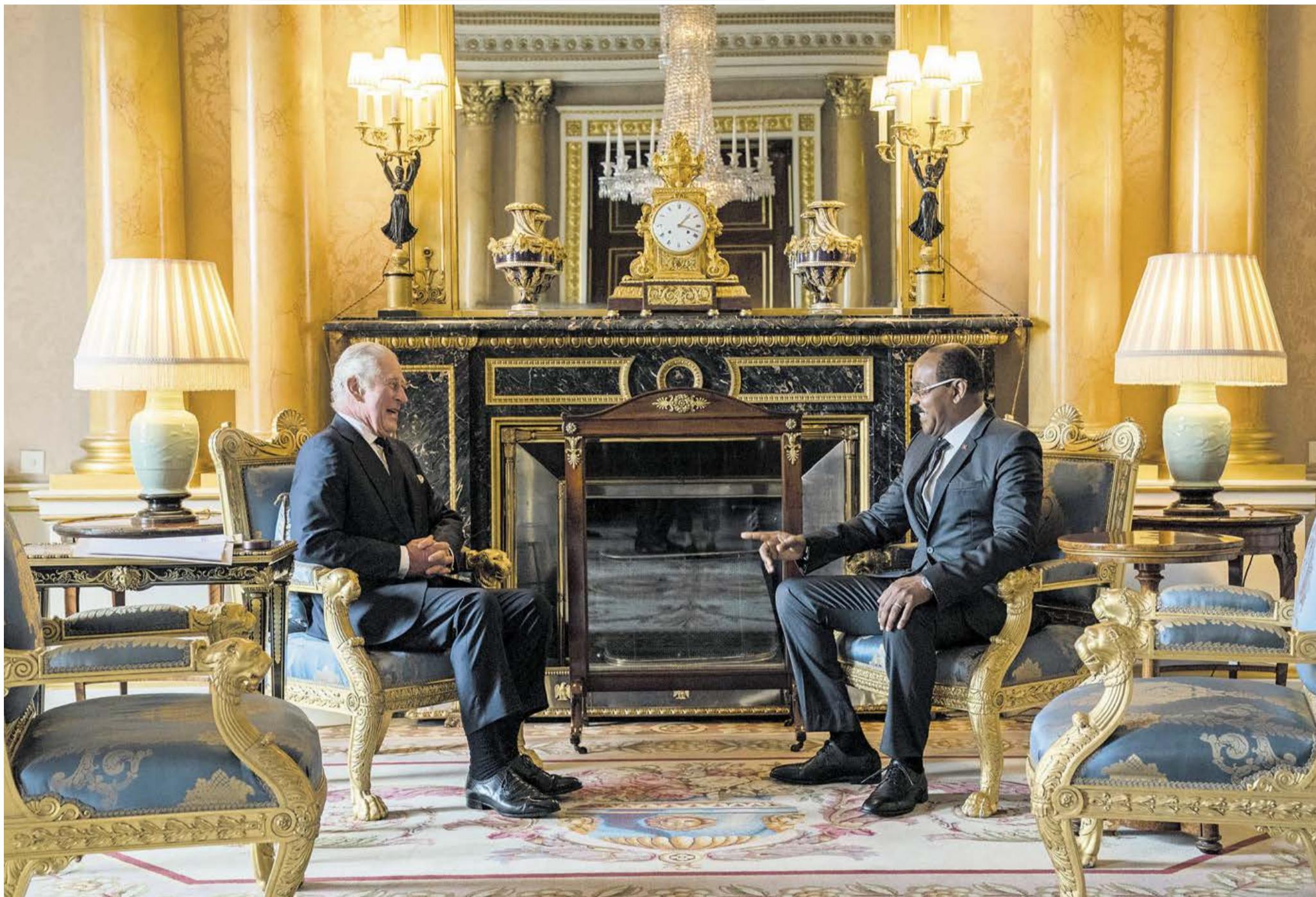
The King is understood to want a slimmed-down royal family and there has been speculation that decisions will be taken to reduce the cost to the public purse.

One important area will be around modernising relations with Commonwealth countries. King Charles has spoken at a Commonwealth summit of his desire to "deepen my own understanding of slavery's enduring impact". His coronation comes in the wake of Prince William's much-criticised tour to Caribbean countries and Barbados's decision to remove the Queen as head of state.

What will happen to royal warrants?

Royal warrants are a mark of recognition granted to goods and services provided to the Queen, and a valuable marketing tool that allows holders to display the royal coat of arms.

Royal warrants granted by the Queen will become void two years after her death, giving companies time to remove the coat of arms from packaging and advertising. If King Charles wishes to grant them another royal warrant, they can receive the distinction again.



From Samoa to Serbia, Canada to Cameroon, world leaders flock to London

Robert Booth

The US president, Joe Biden, joined world leaders arriving in London to pay their respects to the Queen yesterday, crossing himself as he witnessed her coffin lying in state in Westminster Hall for the last night before her funeral.

He followed the prime minister

of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, the president of Singapore, Halimah Yacob, the president of France, Emmanuel Macron, the head of state of Samoa, Tuimaleali'iifano Va'aleto'a Sualauvi II, and the president of Ireland, Michael D Higgins, among other leaders filing past the coffin alongside members of the public.

Public crowds were cleared outside Buckingham Palace in time for the arrival of hundreds more foreign

dignitaries arriving last night for a state reception in the picture gallery and state apartments hosted by the King and Queen Consort before today's funeral at Westminster Abbey. They included the president of Israel, Isaac Herzog; the King of Jordan, Abdullah II; the first lady of Ukraine, Olena Zelenska; and the European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen.

The Princess of Wales met Zelenska in an audience at Buckingham Palace before the reception.

Biden, who arrived in his "Beast" limousine, said: "To all the people of England, all the people of the United Kingdom, our hearts go out to you. You were fortunate to have had her for 70 years, we all were. The world is better for her."

He described her as "decent, honourable and all about service". He said he told the King "she's going to be with him every step of the way".

Hundreds more guests arrived in coaches with tinted windows laid on by the government to limit traffic chaos.

Among those attending one of the largest gatherings of world leaders in decades were the populist president of Brazil, Jair Bolsonaro; the Canadian prime minister, Justin Trudeau; the president of Rwanda, Paul Kagame; the leaders of Ghana, Bangladesh and

South Africa; and the prime minister of Ukraine, Denys Shmyhal.

David Manning, the former UK ambassador to Washington, described the event as "quite exceptional".

"There is a global response to the passing of the Queen and you see this wish to be associated with her expressing itself in this extraordinary number of visitors to London, heads of state and heads of government," he said.

Leaders signing the book of condolences at Lancaster House included the prime ministers of Serbia, Jamaica, Niger, Fiji, Mongolia, Guinea Bissau, Lebanon and Cameroon and the presidents of Bulgaria, North Macedonia, Poland, Hungary, Georgia, Armenia, Nigeria, Ghana, Gabon and Ethiopia.

Trudeau said: "Her presence throughout my life has been constant, inspiring and graceful. As prime minister I benefited from her counsel, thoughtfulness and curiosity, her sense of humour."

Trudeau held brief talks with Liz Truss at No 10, as did the Irish premier, Micheál Martin, who, amid tensions over the Northern Ireland protocol, said: "The opportunity is there for us to reset relationships and to be conscious of what we achieved in previous years, the obstacles that were overcome then."

Not attending the funeral was Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, a Foreign Office source said yesterday, contrary to Britain's earlier expectations that he would. Saudi Arabia would be represented instead by Prince Turki bin Mohammed al Saud, the source said. Prince Turki is a minister of state and has been a member of the cabinet since 2018. He is the grandson of the late King Fahd and part of the new generation brought to power by Prince Mohammed.

The change was made by Saudi Arabia, the source added.



▲ Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed, arrives at Buckingham Palace

▼ The US president, Joe Biden, and the first lady, Jill Biden, right, along with the US ambassador to the UK, Jane Hartley, viewing the Queen's coffin yesterday JOE GIDDENS/AFP/GETTY



◀ The King with Gaston Browne, the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, in Buckingham Palace

PHOTOGRAPH: KIRSTY O'CONNOR/WPA/GETTY

► South Africa's president, Cyril Ramaphosa, signs a book of condolences at Lancaster House



▲ The French president, Emmanuel Macron, and his wife, Brigitte, arrive to view the Queen's lying in state JOHN SIBLEY/AFP/GETTY

Britain has invited heads of state from its allies to attend, but it is up to those nations who to send.

Saudi representation at the funeral has been closely watched for any signs of a further thaw in a diplomatic chill western countries imposed on Prince Mohammed after the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi insider-turned-critic, that US intelligence says was approved by the crown prince.

He has denied any role in the killing. In 2020, Saudi Arabia jailed eight people for between seven and 20 years for Khashoggi's murder.

Vladimir Putin was among a small handful of statesmen not invited, including the leaders of Belarus, Myanmar, North Korea and Syria.

Questions over the status of the Commonwealth realms, where King Charles is now head of state, simmered alongside the gathering. Among those signing the book of condolences was Sandra Mason, the president of Barbados, who replaced the Queen as head of state of the Caribbean nation when it became a republic in 2021.

The King received condolences

from Anthony Albanese, the republican prime minister of Australia who believes his country should have an Australian head of state rather than the British monarch. Asked about whether Australia should become a republic, he said "I don't think now's the time to discuss those issues".

Asked about the King making political interventions, he said it was "important that the sovereign stay distant from party political issues" but said he would be "very comfortable" with him expressing views on the "importance of climate change".

John Kerry, the US climate change envoy, made a similar point telling the BBC when asked if the King should talk about climate change: "I very much hope so ... Obviously, in the same way within the constitutional process, but there is no question in my mind ... There is a threat to the entire planet, [a] threat to all of our nations and he understands it as well as anybody on the planet."

Ardern said she had no intention of instigating the process of becoming a republic for New Zealand, though she said she expected it would happen in her lifetime. "It's a transition, but it's not a jarring transition for New Zealand," she said. "I think even the Queen herself has observed and acknowledged the evolution over time in our relationships."

Bolsonaro Brazil's leader 'using visit as soapbox' for re-election

Tom Phillips
Rio de Janeiro

Brazil's far-right president, Jair Bolsonaro, has been accused of using the Queen's funeral as a political soapbox after he flew into London to deliver a speech to supporters about the dangers of leftists, abortion and "gender ideology".

Speaking from the balcony of the Brazilian ambassador's 19th-century Mayfair home yesterday, the South American populist voiced "profound respect" for the royal family and UK citizens and claimed honouring Queen Elizabeth II was the "main objective" of his visit to London.

But Bolsonaro - who looks poised to lose next month's presidential election back in Brazil - then switched immediately into campaign mode, despite the moment of mourning.

"We're on the right path," Brazil's president told hundreds of yellow-clad supporters who had rallied outside the listed building less than two miles from Westminster Hall, where the Queen was lying in state.

"We are a country that does not want to discuss the legalisation of drugs, that does not want to discuss the legalisation of abortion and a country which does not accept gender ideology," Bolsonaro went on. "Our slogan is: God, homeland, family and freedom."

Bolsonaro's politically charged comments delighted the hardcore supporters who had come to hear him, but prompted anger in the UK and Brazil.

"It's a funeral, dude," tweeted Vera Magalhães, a prominent Brazilian journalist who was recently verbally attacked by Bolsonaro during a televised presidential debate.

Joice Hasselmann, a rightwing politician and former Bolsonaro



▲ Jair Bolsonaro (centre) making a speech from the balcony of the Brazilian ambassador's home in Mayfair yesterday PHOTOGRAPH: EDUARDO BOLSONARO/YOUTUBE

ally, said: "Bolsonaro has turned the Queen's funeral into an election soapbox." Paulo Abrão, a human rights expert and professor of law, condemned Bolsonaro's "insensitive" intervention at a time of national mourning. "Yet another international disgrace," he wrote.

Friends and relatives of the British journalist and Guardian contributor Dom Phillips, who was murdered in the Amazon in June with the Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, also gathered outside the ambassador's residence, to voice their outrage at Bolsonaro's presence.

Phillips' niece, Domonique Davies, was at the anti-Bolsonaro rally organised by a group called Brazil Matters. The small group had to be protected by police as Bolsonaro's supporters harangued them. "We were there to object to his presence in the UK and to show solidarity for Dom and Bruno but also for all the Indigenous people and others who have been murdered in the Amazon," Davies said.

Reports in Brazilian media said Bolsonaro's team saw the Queen's

funeral as a golden opportunity to boost his flagging re-election campaign because he would be rubbing shoulders with world leaders who have largely shunned him.

"Sources close to the president say [the decision to attend] was influenced by the opportunity to record footage for his campaign propaganda," the conservative Estado de São Paulo reported last week.

One presidential aide told Brazil's O Globo newspaper that Bolsonaro saw the funeral as a chance to outdo his leftist rival, the former president Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva.

In his balcony address, Bolsonaro claimed he was on track for victory on 2 October. "There's no way we aren't going to win in the first round," he said to loud cheers and wolf whistles. But polls suggest Lula - with a lead of between 12% and 15% - will prevail.

Criticism of Bolsonaro's declaration - in which he spoke for about 13 seconds about the Queen and for almost two minutes about his campaign agenda - appeared to touch a nerve among the president's team.

"Sad that you have forgotten that President Bolsonaro opened his speech to the incredible audience that awaited him - it's this that should have made the news in any serious newspaper - talking precisely about the death of Queen Elizabeth II," his son, Eduardo Bolsonaro, tweeted at the Guardian. "You bury yourselves on our own, without credibility."

"There's no way we aren't going to win in the first round"

Jair Bolsonaro
To supporters in London

Taiwan 'Special invitation' to sign book of condolence

Reuters

Taiwan's de facto ambassador in London received a special invitation to sign the book of condolence for the Queen, the island's foreign ministry said yesterday, adding that he had been given the same treatment as other dignitaries.

Britain, like most countries, has no diplomatic ties with the Chinese-claimed island, though it has close unofficial ones.

Democratically governed Taiwan is largely excluded from most international events and bodies because of Beijing's objections.

In a statement yesterday, Taiwan's foreign ministry said its representative in London, Kelly Wu-Chiao Hsieh, had been "specially invited" by the government to sign the condolence book at Lancaster House, which is run by the Foreign Office.

The invitation came "based on the importance attached to Taiwan-Britain relations and the precious friendship between the two peoples", it added. The ministry said that Hsieh had "enjoyed the same treatment as the heads of state, representatives and members of the royal family of other countries who have gone to Britain to mourn".

China is sending the vice-president, Wang Qishan, to today's state

funeral, but MPs have raised concerns about inviting representatives from China after several British lawmakers were sanctioned by Beijing for criticising alleged human rights abuses in Xinjiang. China denies any such abuses.

Taiwan's government was quick to send its condolences after the Queen's death, and the foreign minister, Joseph Wu, visited Britain's de facto embassy in Taipei to sign its public condolence book.

Taiwan has not said whether it will be allowed to send anyone to the state funeral, which will be attended by a host of world leaders.

Britain invited a representative from North Korea to attend the funeral, but Afghanistan, Syria and Venezuela were given an invitation, a Foreign Office source said on Wednesday.

Russia, Myanmar and Belarus were also not asked to attend.



London expects biggest transport operation since 2012 Olympics

Jess Clark

About 1 million people are expected to visit the central London area around the royal palaces for the Queen's funeral, making it one of the busiest days ever for the capital's transport network.

The Transport for London commissioner, Andy Byford, said there had been "huge numbers of additional passengers" using services since the Queen's death on 8 September, but demand would "reach a climax" today.

"We're ready for probably one of the busiest days Transport for London has ever faced. It's hard to say exactly how many additional people [will travel], but we're preparing for potentially a million people just within the footprint of the royal palaces and Hyde Park," Byford said.

Visitors have been warned the network could be overwhelmed if too many people travel home directly after the funeral procession leaves Westminster shortly after noon, with mourners urged to delay their journeys and check for travel updates.

The chair of Network Rail, Sir Peter Hendy, said it was the biggest public transport operation since the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games, and warned that trains would be "extremely busy".

"We're working closely with train operators to run extra trains through the day and into the night," he said.

"To help us provide the best possible experience and avoid lengthy queues at stations, we're asking people not to rush home after the funeral and the processions, but to take their time and experience London on this memorable day."

The latest figures from Trainline showed demand for services into London today was 56% above the level recorded for the same day the previous week. Train companies including LNER and East Midlands Railway have warned that services into London will be very busy.

Passengers have been urged to check travel updates before

56%

Rise in demand for train services into London today over last Monday, according to Trainline

15%

Proportion of flights to or from Heathrow that will be disrupted today; at least 100 will be cancelled

beginning their journeys and to book a seat reservation where possible.

About 250 extra rail services will run on the day of the funeral - including overnight trains - and Network Rail has postponed engineering work.

London stations will be open overnight to provide shelter for mourners struggling to get home, and stationary "welfare trains" will be used as waiting areas, with priority given to vulnerable and elderly visitors. All-night trains are serving only limited destinations, mostly within the M25.

People have also been warned to avoid driving in parts of the city. Road closures will start to come in on the A4 and the A30 from 6am, with full closures in both directions after 10am, which are not likely to be lifted until the evening. Multiple closures on local roads along the A4 route will also be in place.

Three tube stations near the funeral - Westminster, St James's Park and Hyde Park Corner - will be closed for most of this morning to avoid overcrowding.

TfL warned extra short-term safety measures may be needed at other stations including closures, queueing, non-stopping trains and changes to station entrances and exits.

Buses will be diverted and Victoria coach station will shut due to local road closures, with coach services starting to move to alternative terminuses around the capital from 4pm yesterday.

Passengers arriving at London mainline railway stations are being advised to avoid public transport and continue their journeys on foot.

More than 100 Heathrow flights will be cancelled to prevent aircraft noise disturbing proceedings at Westminster Abbey and Windsor Castle. The airport said 15% of its 1,200 flights due to take off or land today would be disrupted.

Flights to and from the UK's biggest airport will be halted for half an hour today to ensure the two minutes' silence is not disrupted. Arrivals in the early afternoon will be halted to avoid planes coming in to land over the west of the capital during the procession of the Queen's hearse, and the airport will pause takeoffs later so as not to disturb the ceremonial procession to Windsor.

TfL services have been busier than usual over the weekend as visitors arrived ahead of the funeral. Tube journeys last Friday hit 3.02m, up 9% compared with the previous week, and reached 5.29m on Saturday, an increase of 8%.

London bus journeys on Friday were up 5% to 5.33m compared with the previous week, and rose 3% on Saturday to 4.21m.



'We ran here from church' Admirers' final dash to join queue to see Queen

Emine Sinmaz

Mourners made a desperate final dash to join the queue for the Queen's lying in state yesterday as officials prepared to close it.

Thousands of people defied a warning from the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) urging people to stop joining the 14-hour line.

Families were seen sprinting from Bermondsey tube station in the afternoon in a frantic bid to join the end of the 5-mile queue in Southwark Park, south London.

"We ran here from church because it's the last day," said Amala Soni, as she struggled to catch her breath.

The 39-year-old was joined by her husband, Gaurav, 40, and their children Ryan, 10, and Ivaan, six, who had come prepared with chairs, biscuits and plenty of fruit.

"It means a lot to us because I come from India but I've settled down in the UK and I feel loyal to the Queen. I think it's a privilege to be part of this moment. We really wanted to be here and we heard it was closing, so we sprinted," Amala said.

The Queen's lying in state period was due to end at 6.30am today, but the queue was expected to close several hours before then.

Mourners continued to trek across central London over Saturday night and into yesterday afternoon. Clutching blankets and cups of coffee, they told how they travelled from around the country to join the line, with some even making their second trip.

Philomena Groome, 56, from Surbiton, south-west London, first joined the queue on Friday before having to drop out to take her son to university in Stoke-on-Trent. She had stayed in line for seven hours but had then had to catch the last train out of Waterloo at midnight.

"If I didn't go then I wouldn't be able to take him to uni and that's so important," the Irish-born nurse said as she rejoined the queue yesterday.

"But I am ready to queue again, for 14 hours this time. I was driving round the M25 coming back from Stoke-on-Trent and I thought 'I have to do it again'. I could hear them on the radio saying don't leave home, they are considering closing the queue. I panicked and thought I was going to miss it. I didn't want to queue jump, so I have started from the beginning."

"I am doing it because as a little girl in Ireland all I can remember is watching Charles marry Diana."

Friends Marian Chandler, 68, and Rosemary Richardson, 62, took the train from York on Saturday and joined the queue at 3am yesterday morning. Clutching blankets,



▲ Deborah Adeoye queueing with her daughter, nieces and nephew

▼Thousands defied a warning urging people to stop joining the 14-hour line to see the Queen's coffin
PHOTOGRAPH: MARKO DJURICA/REUTERS



the pair appeared cheerful as they approached the end of the queue near Lambeth Bridge.

"When you start at the beginning, there are people handing out blankets from M&S to keep us warm because it was very chilly," Marian said.

"We've had two hours sleep, and we're planning to get two hours tonight because we want to get up at 2am to get a good spot near the Abbey to watch the funeral," Rosemary added.

"I love the Queen and I just want to say cheerio to her and thank her for everything. She is an amazing example of dedication and service. We're very sad, but we wish King Charles all the best."

Telma Gutierrez praised the spirit of those in the queue and the volunteers handing out sandwiches, and tea and coffee.

The 40-year-old from Aldgate, east London, who joined the queue with her sister-in-law, said: "It's a historic moment and it's the last time we'll get to see the Queen, and the last time we'll have a Queen because it's going to be kings from now on."

"We're all tired but we've had a lady in the queue called Lydia who has kept our spirits up because she's quite funny."

Raphael Uwanoghor, 43, and his wife Elizabeth, 44, travelled from

Greenwich, south-east London, with their three children and joined the queue at 3am. "It's a historic moment we don't want to miss. We're going to learn a lot from being here and we want our children to have this experience too," said Raphael, wrapped in a blanket.

Royal Air Force veterans Hailey and James Frost made the 200-mile trip from Devon with their daughter Eleanor, who was dressed in a Brownie uniform. The couple, who were wearing suits adorned with medals, joined the queue at 3.30am.

"We served under the Queen in the 90s for 10 years and we met her countless times. So we've come all the way from Devon to get here and pay our respects. I met the Queen at the 75th anniversary of RAF Marham in 1993. I am a huge fan."

Deborah Adeoye brought her daughter Kemi, 15, nieces Jasmine, eight, India, 12, Safiya, 10, and nephew Zachary, 10, along for the "historic moment".

"I want the little ones to experience this moment," said the 55-year-old from Kingston, Surrey, who joined the queue at 5am.

"We're Trinidadian but we're brought up in the UK, and we want to pay our respects and say thank you. The girls are wearing their own grandmother's fascinators in tribute."

Open and shut Which shops, cinemas, pubs and restaurants will be closed?

Shopping

For those trying to buy essentials, options are severely limited before 5pm, and even after that cutoff there are only a few major outlets open. Aldi, Lidl and Morrisons will be closed all day. Waitrose will shut all stores apart from a few near the procession route. Asda will be open after 5pm and no online deliveries will be offered. Large Sainsbury's and Tesco stores will be shut all day, apart from some in central London and Windsor. After 5pm, Sainsbury's Local and petrol stations and Tesco Express will be open.

Big department stores such as Harrods, House of Fraser, John Lewis and Selfridges have announced plans to shut for the day. Other retailers that have confirmed they will close include Argos, B&Q, Currys, Holland & Barrett, Homebase, Ikea, Jack Wills, Liberty, Primark, Specsavers, Sports Direct and Wilko.

Lloyds and Well pharmacies are shut all day, while other chemists including Boots are closed during the hours of the funeral.

Entertainment

Odeon, Cineworld and Showcase cinemas are closed. Vue cinemas are not showing any films but



►Sign for customers outside a Tesco store in Milngavie, Scotland, yesterday

customers at some locations will be able to watch the funeral on cinema screens for free.

Many theatre performances, for example Hamilton and The Book of Mormon in the West End of London, will not be running. Center Parcs faced a backlash for saying it would close its UK sites for 24 hours today, backtracking after facing accusations of "ruining people's holidays". The company said it had "reviewed our position regarding the very small number of guests who are not due to depart on Monday and we will be allowing them to stay on at our villages rather than having to leave and return on Tuesday".

Hospitality

Most pub chains have confirmed they will be open today, including most of the more than 400 pubs at Fuller's group and the 44 operated by JW Lees. Some pubs, such as those in the Greene King chain, will open early to screen the funeral from 11am. JD Wetherspoon said its sites in central London and in rail stations and at airports would operate as normal, but most of its other pubs would open later than usual after the funeral.

The bakery chain Greggs is closing its stores for the day,

though a small number of outlets operated by its franchise partners may stay open. McDonald's said it would shut its restaurants during the day before reopening at 5pm.

Of the restaurants that are operating today, many are welcoming customers later than usual. Doors open at Domino's Pizza from noon, and at Ask and Pizza Express from 3pm.

Travel

Flights to and from Heathrow will be halted for half an hour today to avoid disrupting the two minutes' silence at the end of the funeral. Britain's biggest airport is also halting arrivals in the early afternoon to avoid planes coming in to land over the west of the capital during the procession of the Queen's hearse, and it will stop take-offs later so as not to disturb the ceremonial procession to Windsor.

London mainline stations are staying open all night tonight. About 250 extra rail services will run and Network Rail has postponed engineering work.

Asda, Morrisons, Sainsbury's and Tesco are closing their petrol station forecourts, with some reopening at 5pm.

Tom Ambrose and Tom Calverley

Public farewell Places to watch service - and ways to avoid it

Sophie Zeldin-O'Neill

Thousands are expected to travel to London to say their final farewells during the Queen's funeral procession, but outside the capital, hundreds of thousands more are likely to gather to watch the event in cathedrals, parks and other public venues across the UK.

More than 20 cathedrals - including Chester, Norwich, Manchester, Guildford and Winchester - are hosting events to show the service.

Big screens will be erected in towns and cities to broadcast the service at locations including Hull City Hall, Bradford Cathedral, Manchester's Exchange Square, Millennium Square in Leeds,

Lincoln Cathedral, Ripon Cathedral and the Cornhill in Ipswich.

In Birmingham, the ceremony will be shown on a large screen in Centenary Square. In Coventry, the council is putting up a screen in University Square. Meanwhile, Exeter council is showing the funeral on a big screen in Northenhay Gardens and at Exeter City football club.

Several cinema chains are showing the funeral, but no popcorn will be available. Vue has said most of its 91 venues were running screenings, but retail stands would be closed. However, guests will be offered complimentary bottled water during the broadcast.

Vue and Curzon have said most of their venues have already reached capacity. The cinema chain



▲Norwich Cathedral is one of many venues planning to show the service

Arc announced on Twitter: "This is a free event, but pre-booking your seat is essential. There will be no other shows taking place while the funeral is broadcast."

After the last 10 days of round-the-clock royal coverage - not to mention "The Queue" - some might like to spend this bank holiday avoiding the funeral. With most sports centres, high street shops, theatres, supermarkets and museums closing, choices are limited. But there are a number of ways to dodge royal proceedings.

You might like to get out in nature, go for a long walk or bike ride (now that those are allowed again), test your baking skills, or pop to the pub (so long as it is not one of those screening the funeral).

Plenty of beaches across the country are open, but the Met Office is predicting only intermittent sunshine, with cloud cover and drizzle.

Other suggestions from social media users include: doing an online art class, indulging in some light DIY, getting your garden autumn-ready or finally getting round to categorising those holiday photos.

If you get really stuck, you could always resort to a box set. A few episodes of 'The Crown', anyone?



Death of Queen Elizabeth II 1926–2022



◀ A tribute to the Queen displayed on Piccadilly Circus's giant screen, which usually shows advertisements, on 9 September

PHOTOGRAPH:
BERNAT ARMANGUE/AP

in the UK including newspapers, radio stations and social digital platforms, will be implemented again today for the funeral.

After the first ad blackout, commercials were cut from all news and royal-themed programming on TV during the mourning period, with similar restrictions followed by most other media. TV companies also vetted all other ads and sponsorships to make sure no “insensitive or inappropriate” content aired.

“We are talking about the loss of millions and millions of pounds of advertising for media owners,” says a senior executive at a UK media agency. “It’s kind of like the mass media event that commercially never was.”

Newspapers saw huge sales as people snapped up keepsake commemorative print editions. Publishers raced to increase print runs of Friday editions after the news broke on Thursday evening, although the Daily Mail is understood to have missed the deadline to get an ambitious 450,000 extra copies to retailers.

According to a senior executive at one newspaper group, national titles enjoyed one of the biggest ever week-on-week percentage rises in sales that Friday.

“Obviously overall sales volumes aren’t what they once were, but proportionally it was one of the biggest increases we’ve ever seen,” says the executive. “I wouldn’t put it off the table as being the biggest ever for some titles – bigger than William and Kate’s 2011 wedding edition, Obama coming to power, Brexit, Mandela or Thatcher dying.”

Newsquest chief executive, Henry Faure Walker, who runs 160 local titles from the Glasgow Herald and Oxford Mail to the Brighton Argus and Darlington Echo, estimates sales rose 25% to 35% on the Friday, and thinks there will be another spike after the funeral.

Faure Walker expects national papers to have done even better. However, the loss of so much ad revenue and the huge extra cost associated with running so many extra pages and supplements – newsprint prices have had their biggest rise in 25 years – means there has not been a golden commercial opportunity. He added: “You might not think it given the magnitude of such an event, but overall at the end of the day I would say there has been a marginal negative financial impact.”

Ad blackout No commercial bonanza as newspapers and TV stations break records

Mark Sweney

The death of the Queen and coverage of her funeral will top the ranks of the most-watched broadcasts in British TV history, while newspapers have seen an unprecedented boost in sales as mourners seek commemorative copies. But the biggest national event in decades will not provide a commercial bonanza for the media.

ITV has planned its largest ever outside broadcast, with all its channels simulcasting ad-free blanket live coverage for the first time. Today will also be the first time in Channel 4’s four decades on

air that it has instituted a 24-hour ad block across its channels.

The BBC, which is expected to capture the lion’s share of the tens of millions of viewers, has turned over BBC One and BBC Two to broadcast the day of the funeral. Channel 4, Sky and Channel 5 are also committing significant resources and airtime.

This all means the total national reach – the number of individual viewers who watch at least some coverage – could surpass that of two of the most-watched live TV events ever – England’s 1966 World Cup win and Diana’s funeral in 1997.

Viewing will be further boosted by the ceremony being held on a hastily announced bank holiday, especially given the semi-national closure reminiscent of lockdowns,

with businesses from cinemas and supermarkets to Primark and McDonald’s staying shut.

“There is no way it is not going to be huge,” says Boyd Hilton, entertainment director at Heat magazine. “It will go on so long, so many will get a chance to see at least some of it, and there will be a peak moment that will be in that realm of record-breaking figures.”

The audience aggregator overnights.tv has estimated that the day of the Queen’s death already tops the charts for total

9.83m

Number of viewers watching BBC One around the time it announced the Queen’s death on 8 September

reach, with 33 million viewers tuning into the BBC and major channels carrying news between midday and 2am. However, the peak channel audience at any one time was just 9.83 million – at 6.30pm on BBC One around the time of the official announcement.

Mass media TV events are usually cash cows for commercial broadcasters, with 30-second ad breaks in an X Factor final or an England game in the latter stages of a major football tournament costing hundreds of thousands of pounds. However, there was a TV ad blackout after the Queen’s death in accordance with a protocol agreement with Buckingham Palace, over most of the weekend.

That pause, which was instituted by most media owners

Funeral arrangements Readers on how they will spend the day

Clea Skopeliti

Guardian readers share whether they will be watching the Queen’s funeral today and, if so, how they will be doing it.

I feel as though I’ve lost a grandparent

“My partner and I will watch the funeral with our dog at our home.

We contemplated going to London. We feel we will see more from home than we could if we were there. I think Monday will hit everyone quite hard. I think we might all be surprised how we feel on the day. I feel as though I’ve lost another grandparent – my last one.”

Stefan Kruczowski, 45, Derbyshire

We prefer to mourn in private

“I shall be at home with my

husband watching on TV via a laptop. The Queen’s death has affected us and many others far more deeply than I would have imagined possible, so we prefer to mourn in private. There was no way we were going to go to London.”

Judy Rose, 74, Wiltshire

I have no interest at all

“I won’t be watching. I have no interest in it all. It feels like it’s becoming obligatory to be a monarchist, rather than letting people make their own choice. I find it really horrible. I’ll just go for a walk with my family and make the most of a day off.”

Dinah, 65, London

The TV might be on for whoever wants to watch

“I sent a last-minute invitation to my neighbours asking if they were free for G&Ts and scones on Monday. The TV might be on for whoever wants to watch – we’re not royalists, except for my daughter. I will lay a table with scones, a cheese board, cakes, buckets of ice with fizz, gin.”

Angelica Gardner, 59, Birmingham

We have planned a buffet

“We will be watching the funeral and we have planned a homemade buffet, which is always a part of our royal TV days. We have called our event ‘the Queen’s wake’. It’ll

be a different feeling this time to watching events like the weddings, but it’ll still be good to get together – we’re in it for good and bad times. We’re not massive royalists, we just love being together and joining in.”

Angela Dennis, 47, Suffolk

I’ll be getting on with more important things

“I’ve got such mixed feelings about the royal family. I might glance into the living room while doing the washing-up if my wife is watching on TV. Otherwise I shall be getting on with things that are more important to me. I’m a musician so I’ll probably be practising.”

Iain Houston, 74, Dorset

Final build-up Nation waits expectantly as world leaders arrive to pay their respects

Dan Sabbagh

It was the beginning of the end. Out went the official notice on the closely followed queue tracker: "To avoid disappointment please do not set off to the join the queue." Mathematics dictated that, with the lying in state due to end today at 6.30am, and a 13-hour wait forecast, the queue was half a day from closing.

The waits had felt necessary for some, making friends and telling stories as they went. But it was not so easy for others: more than 1,000 people have had to receive medical care since the lying in state began on Thursday, the London Ambulance service said. A total of 136 had even ended up in hospital.

Others, though, were only just arriving. Joe Biden, the US president, had landed on Saturday night to pay his respects at the funeral, taking his Beast armoured limousine from Stansted airport. Many, like the South African president, Cyril Ramaphosa, signed a condolence book at Lancaster House. Plenty also made a short-cut journey to Westminster Hall to see the Queen's coffin.

One of those was Jair Bolsonaro, the rightwing president of Brazil, on his first official trip to London. He arrived on the elevated viewing gallery for foreign dignitaries with his wife, Michelle. It is two weeks from a presidential election, yet the incumbent, behind in the polls, felt it appropriate to travel to Britain, arriving at the embassy in the capital to a crowd of a couple of hundred supporters.

It is not supposed to be a political trip for any of the world leaders coming to London. But that did not stop the Brazilian leader, who, a few minutes later, addressed the crowd in the street from the balcony, wielding a microphone and delivering a none-too subtle campaign speech. "We are a country that does not want to discuss the legalisation of drugs, that does not want to discuss the legalisation of abortion and a country that does not accept gender ideology," Bolsonaro said.

Not everybody wanted to be the story. A to-and-fro over Mohammed bin Salman, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia, accused of orchestrating the murder of the journalist Jamal Khashoggi, was apparently resolved yesterday when the Foreign Office confirmed he would not be attending the funeral. Protests are planned in



◀ King Charles III, Anne, the Princess Royal, the Duke of York, and the Earl of Wessex hold a vigil beside their mother's coffin in Westminster Hall, London



▲ Pallbearers carry the coffin at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh
PHOTOGRAPH: ALKIS KONSTANTINIDIS/REUTERS



◀ King Charles greeting crowds at Buckingham Palace on his return from Balmoral
PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH/THE GUARDIAN



◀ Members of the public view flowers laid in tribute to the Queen in Green Park
PHOTOGRAPH: ZAC GOODWIN/PA



▼ Yeomen of the Guard take a well-earned rest after their vigil around the Queen's coffin during the lying in state

before his mother's funeral. There was an audience with Liz Truss at 12.15pm, then a meeting with prime ministers from the Commonwealth realms – countries that still have the British monarch as their head of state. One of those was Gaston Browne, the prime minister of Antigua and Barbuda, who after the death of the Queen last week said he wants to hold a referendum to become a republic within three years, although the monarch appeared cheery enough in a photo of their 2018 meeting.

With time running out, it was inevitable that some would crash into the news agenda. Prince Andrew released his own statement of tribute yesterday. The 62-year-old was stripped of his royal duties and essentially exiled from the royal family after paying out about £12m to settle a claim of alleged sexual abuse brought by Virginia Giuffre after she was trafficked by his friend and convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein.

"Mummy, Mother, Your Majesty," it began, mawkishly enough. "Mummy, your love for a son, your compassion, your care, your confidence I will treasure forever," he added. Accompanying the statement, his PR adviser sent out a picture of the Queen holding the prince as an infant shortly after his birth in 1960. But it is not likely he will return to royal duties, such is the cloud that hangs over him.

World leaders headed to Buckingham Palace in the early evening for a pre-funeral reception hosted by the King. Coaches – not buses – deposited most of the dignitaries, including the likes of European Commission president, Ursula von der Leyen, and the president of the European Council, Charles Michel. Biden was exempt from the mass transit.

The wait time for the queue to Westminster Hall, which was at one point at 14 hours, shortened to 9.5 hours as people appeared to pay heed to the government's warning. In any event, although some would continue to line up, the focus moved elsewhere. Crowds gathered at Windsor and Sandringham, where people offered floral tributes. Others queued to lay flowers in London's Green Park, and contemplated notes written by others.

But while the crowds gathered in certain places, attention shifted elsewhere. Gradually, from around lunchtime, it was becoming clear that people, folding chairs in hand, were positioning themselves in central London and Windsor to secure a vantage point for the funeral at Westminster Abbey and subsequent committal at Windsor Castle.

With temperatures forecast to drop to 10C, it promised to be a cool night, with tents not allowed in Windsor. Nevertheless, some were determined to have a front-row seat today. A final act in the 10-day-long period of national mourning was looming, one that would propel the Queen to her final burial alongside her late husband – and the nation to a new chapter where perhaps the status of the monarchy would be less certain than it had been for the past 70 years.

Remembering the past is often the easy part. The future, however, is less certain. Jacinda Ardern, the prime minister of New Zealand, said she believed it was "likely" that New Zealand would become a republic in her lifetime, when she appeared on the BBC yesterday morning. "Even the Queen herself has observed and acknowledged the evolution over time in our relationships," she said, although the 42-year-old leader said a change in constitutional status was not one she had "any intent of instigating".

King Charles III was not short of meetings and activity a day

Police call for calm after 'serious disorder' and arrests in Leicester

**Aina J Khan
Mark Brown**

Police and community leaders have called for calm after scuffles between large crowds led to arrests following "serious disorder" in Leicester over the weekend.

Two arrests were made and a large number of people were searched under section 60 stop-and-search powers, police said.

It was the latest in a series of disturbances in the east of the city since a cricket match between India and Pakistan on 28 August.

In Green Lane Road where there are several Muslim-owned businesses and a Hindu temple close by, a group of Hindu men were filmed marching through the area on Saturday.

Rukhsana Hussain, 42, a community leader, described hearing loud chants of "Jai Shri Ram", which translates from Hindi to "hail Lord Ram" or "victory to Lord Ram," from several streets away. It is a chant that has recently become synonymous with anti-Muslim violence in India, where the prime minister, Narendra Modi, is



▲ Police block people trying to march along Belgrave Road in Leicester

under increasing scrutiny for India's treatment of minorities and Muslims.

Majid Freeman, 34, a local resident and community activist, filmed much of the disturbances in Belgrave Road on Saturday evening. In one video circulating Twitter, the smashing of glass bottles can be heard, and police shout at Freeman to move away.

"They were coming past our mosques, taunting the community and physically beating people up randomly," Freeman said.

A gathering of young Muslims in the city was in response to the impromptu march, Freeman added. "That's when the Muslim community came out and said we can't trust the police, we're going to defend our community ourselves."

On Saturday evening Rob Nixon, Leicestershire police's temporary

chief constable, said there had been numerous reports of disorder in east Leicester and officers were taking control of the situation.

A police update early yesterday said large crowds had formed "after groups of young men began an unplanned protest".

One man was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to commit violent disorder and one man on suspicion of possession of a bladed article. Both remained in custody yesterday.

Police said: "We are continuing to call for dialogue and calm with support from local community leaders. We will not tolerate violence or disorder in our city."

In a statement, leaders of the Hindu and Jain temples, and other community organisations in Leicester, said they were working with the police to get to the bottom of Saturday's impromptu march. "We condemn the insensitive and utterly disgraceful acts on the streets of Belgrave and North Evington," the statement said.

Leaders of the Hindu community are not going to tolerate such acts of aggression that undermines the relationships and unity within this city."



▲ Janice and David Hunter on their wedding day. The pair did everything together, he says

Trial of British pensioner who killed ill wife to start in Cyprus

Helena Smith

A British pensioner charged in Cyprus with the premeditated murder of his terminally ill wife says he is "desperate" to have his day in court ahead of the trial opening on the island.

David Hunter is due to appear before a court in the city of Paphos today, almost nine months after he admitted smothering his 75-year-old spouse, Janice, to death.

"He is 76 and is desperate for the case to be heard," said Michael Polak, a barrister at the UK-based legal aid group Justice Abroad. "He has been in custody for a long time and it is clear, after visiting him prison, that he is very anxious it gets off the ground."

Postponed by a tribunal in June, court proceedings are expected to get under way with prosecution witnesses taking the stand. The former Northumberland miner faces spending the rest of his life behind bars if found guilty.

The couple, who were teenage sweethearts, resettled in Cyprus for what they hoped would be a dream life of retirement abroad.

But in the run-up to Christmas last year, Janice allegedly began beseeching her husband to end her life as her health deteriorated because of the leukaemia she had first been diagnosed with in 2016.

Hunter says he finally summoned the strength to meet her pleas on the night of 18 December. He then attempted to take his own life by overdosing on prescription pills.

Euthanasia is outlawed in Cyprus. A plea to have the charge of premeditated murder reduced to assisted suicide in line with legislation elsewhere in Europe has been rejected outright by the attorney general.

Polak, who is coordinating the Briton's defence team, said: "David is determined to fight every step of the way. He keeps talking about how he and Janice did everything together and the pain she was in. It's very difficult to see what the public interest is in prosecuting him for murder."

The attorney general had, Polak claimed, rejected pleas for the charge to be reduced to assisted suicide for political reasons.



Sound and visions

Visitors' actions change colours and shapes at Into Sight, a life-sized installation by Sony Design at the Pavilion Gallery, South Kensington, until Sunday. It is part of the 20th London design festival.

PHOTOGRAPH:
STEPHEN CHUNG/
ALAMY

Kwarteng to announce low-tax, low-regulation zones in England

Andrew Sparrow
Political correspondent

The chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, is expected to announce the creation of a network of low-tax, low-regulation investment zones in an emergency budget on Friday.

Planning regulations will be relaxed in up to 12 places earmarked for this status, and taxes will be cut to incentivise investment.

The announcement, which is

expected to take deregulation further than the post-Brexit freeports set up by Boris Johnson's government, will be part of a package that will also see the rise in national insurance contributions abandoned, a planned increase in corporation tax scrapped and green levies temporarily removed from fuel bills.

Although not formally being billed as a budget, Kwarteng's statement to MPs will dwarf most budgets in terms of its impact on the public finances. The main tax changes trailed in

advance are expected to cost the exchequer at least £30bn a year.

Kwarteng wants to use the statement to show that the government is delivering quickly on the promises made by Liz Truss during her campaign for the Tory leadership when she said that investment zones would be at the heart of her plan to boost growth. A formal budget is due later.

The West Midlands, the Thames estuary, the Tees Valley, West Yorkshire and Norfolk are among the

places where the new zones might be sited. According to the plans set out by Truss in the summer, in each area there will be a central region, where regulations and planning rules will be eased to encourage industrial, commercial and residential development, and a periphery where the planning rules will be streamlined for housing.

The Treasury is reportedly considering whether, as well as offering lower taxes for businesses in the zones, it could reduce personal taxes for those living or working there.

The policy is likely to focus on England in the first instance, although Truss wants to work with the devolved governments to set up investment zones in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, too.

£30bn

Amount the main tax changes to be announced on Friday are expected to cost the government each year

'Built for live music'

Manchester's 1960s hidden gem revived for new generation

Kyle MacNeill

It was standing in line late 1966 with a lot of people to see the Jimi Hendrix Experience," says John Cooper Clarke. "I noticed that everyone in the queue except me was wearing a tie." The renowned punk poet, speaking on the way to a gig in Kidderminster, hastens to add that he still looked dapper, wearing a Fred Perry ("You can't wear a Fred Perry and a tie, you'd look like a schnorrer!") and a striped sports coat. "I couldn't get in," he says, mimicking the doorman: "No tie!"

The venue was Manchester's New Century Hall, a 1,000-capacity space adjacent to New Century House. Designed by Gordon Tait for the Co-Operative Insurance Society in 1962, it played host to acts such as Hendrix, the Rolling Stones, Tina Turner and the Kinks, before becoming an unexpected haven for acid-house parties. It's now being relaunched as part of the city's Noma district, extended to three floors and renamed as simply New Century. The basement will house Access Creative College, offering degree-level qualifications in music and gaming, the already-opened ground floor features a bar and kitchen with street food vendors, and above will be the meticulously restored events space, ready to be officially reopened tomorrow with a performance from Clarke.

The space lay vacant for years, only hosting a handful of gigs in the last decade - including one 15 years ago featuring Clarke and the Fall - and just three between 2002 and 2013. "We'd always been aware of the space as a bit of a hidden gem in Manchester," says Jon Wickstead, the co-founder of the local promoter Now Wave, which is in charge of programming for New Century. "It was just so infrequently used. And you'd go in there and see this amazing old ballroom and be like: 'Why isn't this being used all the time?'"

As soon as Wickstead, his fellow Now Wave founder Wesley Jones and the live promoter Ruth Hemmingfield found out about plans to revive the venue, they wanted to get involved. "We were so excited when we saw that room," Jones notes. "A lot of live spaces are sort of crammed into something that used to be something different - a warehouse, or a theatre - but this was built to watch live music."

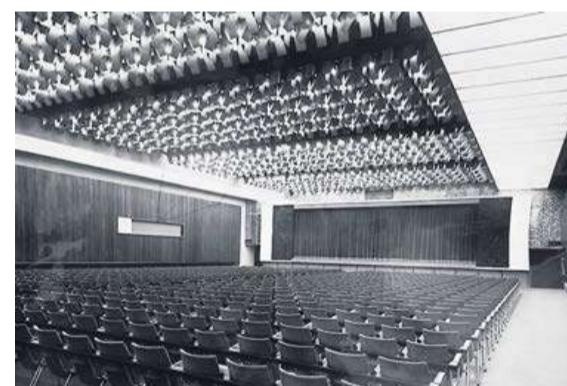
The original interior design has been retained. "Because it's listed,



◀ New Century features several independent food kitchens on the ground floor

▼ The building will also host music and other courses at Access Creative College

PHOTOGRAPHS: NEW CENTURY



▲ The original interior design of the hall from the 1960s (above right) has been retained, including the sprung dancefloor. The

you can feel the history when you're in there," Hemmingfield says. "There's the sprung dance floor; the whole ceiling is just these crazy light fittings that have been there since 1962."

This mirrors Clarke's memories of the venue. "It was the kitsch sister next door to the mighty CIS skyscraper," he says. "But it's kind of a minimalist mix of brushed steel, glass, a bit of concrete and some polished granite styling."

The team has been sparing with social media teasers, ensuring people experience it in person. "A dancefloor doesn't bounce on Instagram," Hemmingfield says.

This combination of old and new, dated and updated is reflected in the venue's forthcoming line-up. "It's not going to be populated by revisionist gigs," Jones says. Although it's a listed building insulated by a rich history, the team wants to reinforce a focus on the new. "This is something for the

next decade, somewhere for new acts to play, for new kinds of stories to be told."

It means that while some bookings are anniversary gigs or shows by local legends - including Clarke and an album playthrough from the Charlatans - the focus is on creating a line-up as eclectic as it is electric. Highlights include the jazz experimentalist Kamal Williams, garage cumbia band Los Bitchos, and Australian Madchester revivalists Confidence Man.

"It was really exciting to bring something back into use as well to reinvigorate it ... especially with venues closing all across the country," Jones says. In upcycling a vacant space into something new, it's also a strong proof-of-concept for future initiatives.

As opening night looms, the team speaks of a positive energy surrounding the venue. Has Clarke ever opened a venue? He quips: "I've closed a few!"

Māori to take back historic carvings in deal with stately home

Harriet Sherwood

Arts and culture correspondent

A Māori delegation will arrive in the UK this week to discuss the retrieval of historic carvings that have been at a stately home in Surrey for the past 130 years.

Forty-eight descendants of Hinemihi, a woman who was embodied in the carvings of the meeting house that bears her name, will bring new carvings in exchange under an agreement reached in 2019.

Hinemihi, one of the oldest surviving Māori meeting houses, was built in 1880 in Te Wairoa, New Zealand.

In 1892, William Hillier, the 4th Earl of Onslow, bought the carvings for £50 as a souvenir of his term as governor of New Zealand. The sale was agreed by Mika, the son of Chief Aporo, who commissioned the building, and the carvings were shipped to Clandon Park, the 18th-century home of the Onslow family near Guildford, Surrey. Clandon was gifted to the National Trust in 1956.

In a statement, the trust said it was "delighted to welcome visitors from the Ngā Kohinga Whakairo o Hinemihi Trust in Aotearoa (New Zealand) this week".

Heeni Brown, one of the Māori delegation, said the carvings were a vital part of New Zealand history. "When it comes to Hinemihi, the carvers of that era are some of the last who used traditional practices," she said.

The carvers, Wero Taroi and Tene Waitere, now regarded as being among the great Māori carvers, used local totara wood. A few years after the meeting house was created, a volcanic eruption devastated the region, killing 153 people. Some of the tribe sheltered inside Hinemihi and were the only ones to survive.

In November 2019, the trust announced that it had agreed in principle with Heritage New Zealand for the historic carvings to return to New Zealand in exchange for new carvings.

Yesterday, a spokesperson for the trust said: "The new carvings will form a new Māori meeting house, created especially for Clandon, to continue the tradition of a living meeting house in the grounds of Clandon Park."



▲ The meeting house at the National Trust's Clandon Park, Surrey

Home Office refuses to speed up case of terminally ill woman

Diane Taylor

A Windrush campaigner with terminal cancer has begged the Home Office to resolve her immigration status before she dies, but it has refused to expedite her case.

Eulalee Pennant, 64, of Jamaican heritage, arrived in the UK in 2001 and was granted a student visa. At one point, her immigration case was stuck in a Home Office backlog for a decade. She was granted discretionary leave to remain in 2019 on the basis of family life with her partner, Gilford Fraser, a British citizen and Windrush descendant, who arrived in the UK from Jamaica in 1968 aged 12.

Pennant made a new application for further leave to remain after it ran out in January, but is still waiting for the Home Office to process it. She was working as a carer during the pandemic and was a music

performer with the stage name LadyP Lioness, but was diagnosed with stage 4 small round cell sarcoma in April and has been given just months to live by her doctors.

Pennant has no recourse to public funds, so cannot access benefits that could make her final months more comfortable. So far she has not been charged for her NHS treatment, but she fears Fraser may be saddled with a huge bill after her death. She has had emails from the hospital's overseas visitors department asking for proof of her leave to remain in the UK.

The couple live in a third-floor flat in Hackney with no lift. Pennant is housebound apart from when an ambulance crew carry her down the stairs for hospital appointments.

Her MP, Diane Abbott, asked the Home Office to expedite her application for further leave to remain, but officials replied that while they were sorry about Pennant's ill health, they would not expedite the case. In



▲ Eulalee Pennant, a former carer, has no recourse to public funds

the letter dated 6 August, officials said the type of application Pennant made did not have a target response time, and although they were considered as quickly as possible, "there may be circumstances which result in an extended delay". The letter said because she was receiving NHS care, officials concluded "it is not appropriate to expedite the application".

Family, friends and supporters have asked the Home Office to grant her access to public funds as well as

asking the department to hurry up and process the application.

Pennant has suffered many hardships and tragedies in her life, including the murder of her son Michael Phillips in Jamaica in 2009, months after being deported from the UK. In 2018, at the height of the Windrush scandal, the Home Office detained her and threatened to deport her to Jamaica. She has campaigned energetically for justice for Windrush victims.

"The things she has gone through are horrific. It is hard to even dream of the things she has experienced and the scars that she has been left with," said Fraser. "When you see someone crying and you can't do anything about it, it's the worst thing."

Pennant said: "If the Home Office would sort my case out, my life would be a million times better than it is now. They have messed with my life for so many years. Their treatment is cruel, it's hostile, it's racism. I have had a lot of struggle in my life. I don't know what I've done to deserve this."

Her supporters have set up a fund to pay for basics for her because she cannot access benefits.

Home Office sources said they did not routinely comment on individual cases, and that they tried to consider applications as quickly as possible.

Truss meets Irish taoiseach, raising hopes of new talks on Brexit protocol

Lisa O'Carroll

Brexit correspondent

Hopes that talks between the UK and the EU will resume over a protracted dispute about the Brexit arrangements in Northern Ireland have risen after a 45-minute meeting between Liz Truss and the Irish prime minister in Downing Street yesterday morning.

The taoiseach, Micheál Martin, was one of five world leaders to meet the prime minister before the Queen's funeral today, in what was seen by some as a mark of the UK's determination to reset soured relations with its neighbour.

Martin offered condolences to the British people over the death of the monarch.

No statements were issued because of the official period of mourning, but it is understood both sides agreed there was an opportunity to reset the relationship between the UK and Ireland, fuelling hopes that talks with the EU will resume within weeks.

Negotiations between London and Brussels were paused in February because of the outbreak of war in Ukraine and have yet to be resumed, amid escalating opposition to the protocol among unionist parties in Northern Ireland.

It is thought Truss and Martin discussed the importance of the wider relations between the two countries and the importance of unity in the face of global challenges, including the energy crisis.

The meeting between the two leaders came just days after the Irish foreign minister, Simon Coveney, expressed "cautious optimism that we will see in a few weeks' time the opening of an honest effort to try to settle some of these issues that have been outstanding for far too long".

Both sides have said in the past fortnight that they are determined to find an agreed path for post-Brexit trade rules in Northern Ireland, with the UK demanding the removal of physical checks on farm produce and other goods.

However, the UK has also insisted it will maintain the right to take unilateral action as an "insurance policy" in the event a solution cannot be found.

A controversial bill that would enable the UK to tear up part of the protocol was tabled by Truss earlier this summer and is expected to reach the House of Lords in mid-October.

Truss is expected to have a formal meeting with the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, at the UN general assembly in New York this week.

The prime minister will also meet Joe Biden, who has expressed concern that the peace deal in Ireland should not be undermined by the Brexit row.

'Not all sombre' Fashion weaves a path between catwalk and the queue

Jess Cartner-Morley

There was only one show in town in London this weekend, and that was The Queue. But the catwalks of London fashion week soldiered on. "It felt important to keep going, because this is a time when London needs to stick together, and right now some of this city's young designers are at risk of losing their businesses," said the designer Jonathan Anderson after his JW Anderson show.

A black T-shirt printed with the words "Her Majesty The Queen 1926-2022" was included alongside a mini dress constructed from plastic computer keys jumbled into an alphabet mosaic, and a pair of plastic shark fins worn by the model and author Emily Ratajkowski. The catwalk began on a Soho street, crash barriers holding back the crowds who have filled central London, before snaking through a video gaming arcade.

Backstage after the show, Anderson cheerfully defended the incongruous combination of looks. "London has felt absolutely extraordinary, over the past week. I've never known an energy like it, I don't think I've ever seen Soho this busy, and it is not all sombre.



◀ Outfits from JW Anderson's women's spring/summer 2023 show at London fashion week

"People are having a drink but they are just being really nice, you know? It's very British."

The late addition of the T-shirt "will remind me what this moment in time was really about, when I look at pictures of this collection in 20 years' time," he added.

The issue of whether to risk looking trite in slotting a homage to the Queen amid the party dresses, or to risk appearing disrespectful by not doing so has divided London fashion week.

The mood at yesterday's shows was low key. Trays of champagne are out; the designer Nensi Dojaka gave guests a sprig of white hydrangea instead. But the celebrity front row made an appearance at Rejina Pyo's show, where the actor Sharon Horgan and singer Jessie Ware showed up.

On the 28th floor of a new City of London skyscraper, Pyo said she had been thinking about Tolstoy's dictum that "one can live magnificently in this world if

one knows how to work and how to love" - and how, when Tolstoy wrote those words, he was thinking only of men.

Pyo, whose fresh tailoring and light-touch prettiness has made her an influential force in fashion, wanted to celebrate what a life fusing work and love looked like to women, she said. A soft trouser suit, and stretchy lace dresses worn with low sandals, came in lemon, sage, duck egg blue - and, just occasionally, black.

▼ Oil refinery in Linden, New Jersey.
Approved projects in the US will release 27bn tonnes of emissions
PHOTOGRAPH: TAYFUN COSKUN/GETTY



Burning known reserves of fossil fuels 'would be global catastrophe'

Oliver Milman

Burning the world's proven reserves of fossil fuels would emit more planet-heating emissions than have occurred since the industrial revolution, easily blowing the remaining carbon budget before societies are subjected to catastrophic global heating, a new analysis has found.

An enormous 3.5tn tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions will be emitted if governments allow identified reserves of coal, oil and gas to be extracted and used, according to what has been described as the first public database of fossil fuel production.

The database, which covers about three-quarters of global energy production, reveals that the US and Russia each have enough fossil fuel reserves to single-handedly eat up the world's remaining carbon budget before the planet is tipped into 1.5C or more of heating compared with the pre-industrial era.

Among all countries, there is enough fossil fuel to blow this remaining budget seven times over,

propelling people and ecosystems into disastrous heatwaves, floods, droughts and other impacts never seen before in human history. Governments have agreed to restrain global heating to 1.5C but have largely declined to actively halt new fossil fuel leases or extraction.

"Governments are issuing new licences or permits for coal that are decoupled from their own climate commitments," said Mark Campanale, the founder of the Carbon Tracker Initiative, which launches a global registry of fossil fuels with Global Energy Monitor today.

"It's like a country announcing that they're going on a climate change diet and they're going to eat salad for lunch, and then sneaking back to their office and working their way through a box of donuts," he said. "You're not on a diet if you're stuffing your face with donuts, but that's what's happening with countries and their developers of fossil fuels."

For the world to have a chance of avoiding 1.5C or more of global heating, scientists have estimated the world can only emit 400bn to 500bn more tonnes of greenhouse gases. This would involve cutting emissions

by about half this decade before zeroing them out entirely by about 2050.

However, the US alone has the potential to release 577bn tonnes of emissions, most of that from coal, through its known fossil fuel reserves. While Joe Biden has presided over the US's first ever climate change legislation and vowed to tackle what he has called an "existential threat to humanity", his administration has continued to hand out leases for oil and gas drilling, including in the Gulf of Mexico, the site of BP's Deepwater Horizon oil spill disaster.

Of these reserves, 27bn tonnes of emissions are set to be released from approved US projects already under development, including 33.2bn barrels of oil, according to the database.

Russia, meanwhile, has enough identified fossil fuels to unleash 490bn tonnes of greenhouse gases and is developing projects that are set to emit 11bn tonnes. China, India and Australia also each have enough fossil fuel reserves to push the world to the brink of climate breakdown.

While countries agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accords to curb global heating, three decades of international talks did not yield any



577bn

Tonnes of greenhouse gases the US has potential to emit, as Joe Biden continues to approve drilling leases

commitment to reduce the primary cause of the climate emergency: the burning of fossil fuels. At UN talks last year in Glasgow, wrangling by diplomats did yield a promise to "phase down", but not out, the use of coal.

"Countries like to talk about emissions, they don't want to talk about fossil fuels," said Campanale. "Emissions are from the use of fossil fuels and you can't do anything about emissions until you've actually come to a conclusion about what you're going to do about fossil fuels."

"When two, three, four times more fossil fuels are in development for the remaining carbon budget, that tells you policy is more than out of sync."

Many large companies are pushing ahead under the assumption of expanded fossil fuel use, despite government commitments. In May, the Guardian revealed there are nearly 200 "carbon bomb" projects in train around the world, helmed by companies such as Exxon, BP and Shell, that would each result in at least 1bn tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions over their lifetimes. Private equity firms also continue to pour billions of dollars into the sector.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has pushed up prices of oil and gas, causing European leaders to seek the expansion of gas imports from around the world. Campanale said new gas import facilities "risk becoming stranded" as they are superseded by cheap renewable energy, such as solar and wind, causing investors to heap pressure on companies to more quickly embrace a greener future to avoid financial wipeout.

More than 200 groups last week called for a global fossil fuel nonproliferation treaty, and UN climate talks in Egypt will see activists urge states to end their issuance of mining leases.

Poorer nations prepare to ask richest to cover damage from climate crisis

Fiona Harvey
Environment correspondent

The world's most vulnerable countries are preparing to take on the richest economies with a demand for urgent finance - potentially including new taxes on fossil fuels or flying - for the irrecoverable losses they are suffering from the climate crisis, leaked documents seen by the Guardian show.

Extreme weather is already hitting many developing countries hard and is forecast to wreak further catastrophe. Loss and damage - the issue of how to help poor nations suffering from the most extreme impacts of climate breakdown, which countries cannot be protected against - is one of the most contentious problems in climate negotiations.

Some of the world's most vulnerable countries have prepared a paper for discussion this week at the UN general assembly in New York. It shows they are preparing to ask for a "climate-related and justice-based" global tax as a way of funding payments for loss and damage.

The funds could be raised in several ways: by a global carbon tax; a tax on airline travel; a levy on the heavily polluting and carbon-intensive bunker fuels used by ships; adding taxes to fossil fuel extraction; or a tax on financial transactions. The discussion paper notes the pros and cons of each of these, and the alternatives of raising funds through development banks and from the private sector.

Nations will meet again for fresh talks called Cop27 in Egypt in November, where loss and damage is expected to be a major topic of discussion. At Cop26, the UN climate summit held in Glasgow in 2021, negotiations were generally good-tempered and there was consensus on the need to limit global temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels. Amid the upheavals since Russia's invasion of Ukraine, this year's talks are likely to be more fractious.

Damage to poor countries is set to increase. A separate submission to the UN, by Antigua and Barbuda, warns that increasing sea and air temperatures in the Caribbean could create a superstorm within years that would wreak \$9bn (£7.8bn) in damage to the island nation alone, six times its annual GDP.

Adelle Thomas, the director of the climate change adaptation centre at the University of the Bahamas, and a lead author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, said the case underscored the need for "ambitious climate action".

Thomas said: "For countries in the Caribbean that have contributed the least to climate change but are already struggling with current impacts, it is critical that global warming is limited to 1.5C."

Two-thirds of England's trainee GPs plan to work part-time, study says

Denis Campbell
Health policy editor

Almost two-thirds of trainee GPs in England plan to work part-time just a year after they qualify because being a family doctor is so stressful, new research shows.

Their intention to work two and a half or three days a week could exacerbate the NHS's already acute shortage of GPs and make it even harder for patients to get an appointment.

The King's Fund study found that 63% of trainee GPs in England plan to work no more than six four-hour "sessions" a week a year after qualifying. Family doctors say they do not want to work any more shifts than that because their jobs are so "intense" and the extra work generated by seeing patients, such as referral letters, means a four-hour shift actually takes six or seven hours.

Fewer than a third of trainees – 31% – said they planned to undertake seven, eight or more shifts, which in general practice is regarded as full-time. That is 10% fewer than those who said the same in 2016 and is further confirmation of the pronounced and growing shift towards part-time working among family doctors.

"GP trainees tell us that half-day clinical sessions are rarely four hours and in fact are more six or seven hours once all they have seen all their patients and completed their administrative work, such as checking blood results, making referrals and following up with other [medical] professionals."

"So six half-days can be a lot more than 40 hours in practice," said Dr Beccy Baird, a senior fellow in health policy at the health thinktank.

The big increase in part-time working is laid bare in the results of the survey, which is the fifth time since 2016 that the King's Fund has canvassed GP trainees' future career

plans. The trend is also gathering pace because "trainee GPs don't want to be crushed by weight of work and have seen too many members of the profession coming under unhealthy levels of pressure," she added.

In the research, which was conducted among 318 future family doctors, "GP trainees were clear that the intensity of their work is the key reason that they want to work fewer sessions than in the past."

When trainees who planned to work less than full-time were asked why, 78% said "intensity of the working day". The three next commonest explanations also involved the demands of their jobs. Two-thirds (67%) said "volume of administrative work", 63% cited "work-related stress" and 61% specified the "long working hours" involved.

The proportion of trainees planning to work only three or four shifts after one year has risen since 2016 from 13% to 21%, after five years from 20% to 31% and after ten years from 22% to 26%.

Prof Martin Marshall, chair of the Royal College of GPs, said family doctors were increasingly working fewer shifts "to safeguard themselves from burnout and protect their patients. A burnt out GP is not able to practice safely."

The King's Fund also found that fewer trainees want to become partners – a boss of a surgery – because of the huge responsibility involved.

A spokesperson for the Department of Health and Social Care said: "The health secretary is focused on reducing ambulance delays, busting Covid backlog, improving care and increasing the number of doctors. There are nearly 1,500 more full-time equivalent doctors working in general practice now than 2019, a record number of students started training last year and we are spending £1.5bn to create 50m more appointments by 2024."



One doctor's viewpoint 'Being a GP is an almost impossible job to do well'

Dr Zara Aziz, a GP in Bristol, describes the pressures on GPs that are prompting many trainees to work part-time.

I work as a GP partner in a large practice of nearly 30,000 patients in east Bristol. We are also a training practice with a steady flow of GP trainees and I am one of three trainers here. We have a large cohort of GPs and serve a varied population of young families, elderly housebound patients and university students. It is a buzzing and fast-paced environment.

A working day can easily extend to 12 or 13 hours. I am a part-time GP, but my hours are near full-time when training, supervision and partnership duties are factored in. It is the toughest and most time-pressured job I have ever done. There is no end point to the work and medical complexity continues to rise and can be hard to fit into 10- or 15-minute slots.

This is often encroaching on time GPs have for family, exercise

and social activities. On some days I can feel 'talked out', with little energy to engage in conversations with my husband or the children.

With the Covid backlog in hospitals and a national drive for reducing referrals, GPs are seeing more complex patients in primary care. There is also increased hospital correspondence such as emails that we write for advice and guidance from specialists. There are medical reports, repeat prescription requests and blood

'There is no end point to the work and medical complexity continues to rise and can be hard to fit into 10- or 15-minute slots'

Dr Zara Aziz
GP in Bristol

results to review – what I call 'unseen work'. Much of this paperwork is done late into the evening or remotely on days off. At the same time patients who really need to see a doctor worry about bothering their GP. Balancing the risk and uncertainty of who needs more input can be challenging and draining.

In the current environment being a GP is becoming an almost impossible job to do well.

There is a big drive to expand GP training programmes to increase the workforce. But recruitment alone is not the answer.

Unless the state of general practice is to change, where it becomes better resourced, boundary and less politically driven, then the numbers of GPs out there will never equate to whole-time equivalents.

If we want to attract the next generation of junior doctors into what can be one of the best jobs in the world then this change needs to happen now.

Black and south Asian Britons die 'younger and sooner' of dementia

Denis Campbell
Health policy editor

Britons of black and south Asian origin with dementia die younger and sooner after being diagnosed than white people, research has found.

South Asian people die 2.97 years younger and black people 2.66 years younger than their white counterparts, according to a study by academics from University College London and the London School of

Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. A team led by Dr Naaheed Mukadam, from UCL's division of psychiatry, studied health records covering 1997 to 2018 of 662,882 people across the UK who were aged over 65.

They found that dementia rates

have increased across all ethnic groups; confirmed that black people are 22% more likely to get dementia than their white peers and that dementia is 17% less common among those of south Asian background.

But they have voiced concern about also discovering that south Asian and black people are diagnosed younger, survive for less time and die younger than white people.

"The earlier age of dementia diagnosis in people of black and south Asian [people]... may be related to the higher prevalence of some risk factors for dementia, such as in older south Asians fewer years of education and in both groups hypertension [high blood pressure], diabetes and obesity," they write in the paper, which

has been published in the medical journal *Alzheimer's and Dementia*. "Overall, our findings show black and south Asian patients are diagnosed with dementia at a younger age and die at a younger age with dementia than white patients, losing more years of life."

They also found that 11.8% of over-65s have dementia. That is the highest figure for the prevalence of dementia in Britain any study has yet arrived at. The NHS website says

11.8%

Proportion of British over-65s estimated to have dementia, according to the latest research

one in 14 people – about 7% – have the brain-wasting condition. The researchers say the difference is due to rising life expectancy since previous estimates were drawn up.

The stark disparities between ethnic groups are "concerning", said Mukadam. "We do not know if earlier death after dementia diagnosis is because dementia is picked up at a later stage in minority ethnic groups if underlying risk factors in these groups contribute to worse overall health or if there is a difference in post-diagnostic support."

She said "targeted interventions" to raise awareness about risk factors in some ethnic minorities, such as diabetes among south Asians, may help prevent dementia developing.

Future of theme parks A rollercoaster ride of VR interactivity and personalised thrills

Alex Hern
Technology editor

In the fight for theme park visitors, the battle lines have been drawn: monster trucks, virtual reality zombie warfare and "smellscaping" – just, thankfully, not all at the same time. While tens of thousands queued to pay their respects to the Queen, 10,000 others were gathered in a convention centre in east London experiencing the future of the theme park.

The hall was dominated by a monster truck on hydraulic rocking riders and a 2.5-metre alien created by a 3D printer in a matter of hours. Alongside that were several full-size bowling lanes and vast numbers of soft play areas. The pinball manufacturer Stern did, however, delay the launch of its James Bond pinball machine as a mark of respect for the Queen.

The sheer number of virtual reality headsets was striking. With the help of virtual reality, riders on the monster truck experienced being thrown about as though they were being driven around a real arena, and the rollercoaster manufacturer Mack Rides could demonstrate some of its rides without needing to ship people out to its Europa-Park in Germany.

The technology also helps provide interactivity, something that Mark Beumers, the chief executive of the Dutch "dark rides" vendor Lagotronics Projects, thinks is going to become increasingly crucial to the experience.

"Visitors expect more and more, as they grew up with technology nowadays, and they want to experience technology in a theme park in a different and better way than they can do it at home. And since they already have a lot of technology at home, a theme park needs to be the extra step."



▲ Testing virtual reality headsets at the conference in east London

But, Beumers says, virtual reality has its limits. Just getting headsets on and off riders can delay loading up rides, and the technology limits one of the best aspects of going to a theme park: the relationship with the friends and family you go with.

Although the technology was just starting to be installed in parks by the beginning of 2018, the impact of Covid has given operators a chance to shift their approach.

"In 2019, people were thinking 'this is the new thing, this is going

to take off,'" says Emily Popovich of the theme park design agency Outdoor Factory. "But then Covid hit. And then, after Covid, everyone is calm and developing new awesome things, there's so many geniuses in this industry. So we come out of Covid and everything is better than it was in 2019 and nobody cares about that anymore."

In its place, says Maximilian Roeser, Mack Rides' head of marketing, is a new push for "augmented reality" that lets riders experience all the benefits of VR without being in a bubble that shuts them off from the real world. In the company's latest creations, riders put the headsets on long before they get on the rollercoaster itself, with the queue, boarding and alighting experience all being tinged with virtual additions.

But Roeser says the biggest changes are likely to be the ones behind the scenes that such technology enables.

"Theme parks will develop in a way that you'll have more and more interactivity. More and more customisation as well: all the parks will know who is coming in, their name, age, probably what they like and dislike, and therefore they can transform the park experience for each guest. And each guest experience will be different and will probably be fitted directly to that guest."

"We've already worked with that, because we have some alpha options for our coaster ride so that you can choose your own experience; a person sitting on the left hand side could see a different movie from the person sitting on the right hand side."

The classic experiences aren't going anywhere, though. For many, such as Julie Rice-Witherell of the conference organisers IAAPA, the global association for the "attractions industry", there's still nothing that matches the thrill of riding a new rollercoaster for the first time.

"Every time they build a new one anywhere near me, it's like – it's just something different. I wouldn't say it's better, but it is faster, or it has more turns or, you know, hits higher G-forces, whatever. It's always something new that you've never experienced."

Stage review

A bit of sport with Beckett and Pinter's waiting game

Stumped
Original theatre online
★★★★★

Mark Lawson

Samuel Beckett and Harold Pinter were linked by long friendship and winning the Nobel prize in literature (they were the 1969 and 2005 laureates) but also, despite never having been professional players, by merit of prominent obituaries in Wisden, the annual publication that is cricket's scripture.

A 1990 tribute recalled Beckett as "a left-hand opening batsman, possessing what he called a gritty defence", who played two first-class games for Dublin University against Northamptonshire. The 2009 piece on Pinter recorded his long involvement, as an enthusiastic captain and flamboyant batsman, with the showbiz Gaieties cricket club.

Shomit Dutta's play *Stumped* imagines Beckett turning out for Gaieties in a 1964 fixture in the



Andrew Lancel as Harold Pinter, left, and Stephen Tompkinson as Samuel Beckett in *Stumped*

PHOTOGRAPH:
TRISTRAM KENTON/
THE GUARDIAN

Cotswolds. Recorded at Lord's cricket ground for the enterprising live-online hybrid Original theatre, it can be streamed on demand for a year from 27 September.

With their side at 27-2, the dramatists, five and six in the batting order, are sitting in the pavilion as the next two in, if needed. As Dutta has enjoyably spotted, two men waiting for an appointment of nervous uncertainty mirrors the situation of both Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* and Pinter's *The Dumb Waiter*, with

the dramas also informing cricket: "Wait!" is a key cry from a batsman warning a partner not to run.

Dutta, an academic and Gaieties CC player, uses the sources in ways broad – an elusive player whose name the men have heard as "Doggo" – and subtle, especially in character dynamics.

Pinter's and Beckett's plays pair a dominant (Vladimir/Gus) and subservient (Estragon/Ben) partner. Plausibly, Dutta makes Pinter, much younger and less successful at this stage, the jumpy

underdog, apprehensive about batting with a great.

Andrew Lancel's Pinter, voice as dark and deep as the frames of the signature spectacles, seems more body-snatching than acting. Stephen Tompkinson's Beckett captures the teasing and self-deprecation, genius worn lightly, of which biographies speak.

The script is learned about both literature and cricket, including Pinter's reverence for the Somerset and England all-rounder Arthur Wellard, the latter perhaps limiting

its reach: an off-Broadway run seems unlikely.

At 50 minutes, *Stumped* is more limited overs than full five-act Test. Dutta might consider expanding the project into an omni-farce incorporating the lives and styles of other cricket-loving dramatists: Tom Stoppard, Simon Gray, Alan Ayckbourn, David Hare. But this is already a perfect pitch for lovers of drama and cricket.

On originaltheatreonline.com from 27 September for one year

World



PHOTOGRAPH: JUAN BARRETO/AFP/GTET

School of resistance The teachers fighting back in occupied Ukraine

Shaun Walker and Pjotr Sauer

At the start of summer, several months after the Russians had taken over a large chunk of southern Ukraine in the first days of the war, the head of a school in an occupied town gathered his teaching collective for a meeting.

The school would cooperate with the Russian occupation authorities, he told them, and reopen for the new school year in September, teaching the Russian curriculum.

As recalled by Halyna, the school's longstanding deputy

head, he told the assembled staff: "Ukraine has abandoned us and isn't coming back, and now the Russians are making us offers. If we don't accept, they'll send new people from Russia to run the school who won't have any attachment to it. It's better that we stay here and try to take care of it."

Halyna said: "About one-third of the teachers agreed, but for me, I knew there was no way I could work for the Russians." She told the head she was quitting.

He told her all the school's Ukrainian textbooks would be destroyed in the coming days, so if she wanted anything, she should take it home. Halyna visited her classroom and filled a bag with

poems written by her students in Ukrainian, which had been pinned to the walls. "Imagine, I worked in that school for more than 25 years. I walked out of there, alone, carrying a pot plant and a bag of poems, tears streaming down my face," she said, her voice breaking.

A few days later, Halyna was denounced as a traitor at a parents' meeting. She was warned by former colleagues that others had labelled her a pro-Ukrainian agitator and she was now on a watchlist of the Russian FSB spy agency. She fled to Ukrainian-controlled territory.

Halyna is not the teacher's real name; the Guardian is not revealing her identity or that of the town where her school is, because

she fears reprisals against family still living under occupation. But the basics of her history and background were corroborated by other sources, and hers is one of many stories emerging from the occupied territories that show the significance of education policy to the occupation. The Kremlin hopes it can shape a new generation who will accept a Russia-centric view of Ukrainian history.

The Ukrainian curriculum "was aimed at turning you into an idiot", said Kyrylo Stremousov, a former anti-vaccine blogger made deputy governor of the Kherson region by the Russians. "The curriculum will change, and children will no longer undergo degradation and

will actually start to learn," he said in a phone interview.

Many teachers have been reluctant to work for the Russians and Ukrainian officials say there is a pattern of pressure and threats towards those who stayed behind.

"We have received hundreds of messages from the occupied territories," said Sergii Gorbachov, Ukraine's education ombudsman. "They are forcing teachers to use the Russian curriculum, they're bringing in Russian textbooks with the concept that Ukrainians and Russians are one people, full of Russian imperialism."

Halyna said some in her town were enthusiastically pro-Russian, but others collaborated out of pragmatism. Gorbachov said it was not fair to cast judgment on teachers who were in an impossible position. "We have neither a moral nor legal right to demand heroism from people living under occupation," he said. "Their main goals should be to save lives and not voluntarily collaborate."

Others are less sympathetic. Many Ukrainian officials are demanding long prison sentences

Inconvenient truth
Italian flood victims hit out at politicians
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South Korea
Aide speaks out over sexual assault scandal
 Page 28



On the frontline Residents flee Kupiansk as Russians try to halt Kyiv's advances

Luke Harding and Isobel Koskiw
 Kharkiv

Ukrainian civilians were fleeing heavy fighting yesterday, as Russia's armed forces tried to hold off a further advance by Ukrainian troops in the north-east of the country.

Cars packed with families streamed out of the city of Kupiansk, which Ukraine recaptured just over a week ago as part of a stunning counteroffensive. Residents said they had been forced to leave because of heavy day and night shelling. The Russians were bombarding the town and surrounding villages, they said.

In the space of a few days Ukraine managed to recapture almost the entire Kharkiv region, liberating at least 300 settlements. Demoralised Russian troops pulled back to a new defensive line on the east bank of the Oskil River, which is about 10 miles from the largely destroyed city of Izium. Others fled across the border back to Russia.

Kupiansk, a strategic railway junction on both sides of the river, is on the new frontline after Ukrainian forces on Friday crossed to the right bank. They are now poised to push further into Luhansk province, which the Kremlin and its local proxies have entirely controlled since June, and partly since 2014.

Locals in Kupiansk said they had been told to evacuate. The city was without electricity and water. It was

difficult to get a phone connection, they said, and people were hiding in basements and garages.

Four medics were killed and two patients injured after Russian forces fired at a psychiatric hospital in the village of Strelchya, according to the governor of the Kharkiv region.

Yesterday buses ferried civilians to the town of Shevchenkove. Hundreds of people who had spent six months under occupation queued in the central square to register. Others travelled in battered Lada cars.

"We spent two days sitting in our cellar. It was impossible to carry on like that so we decided to leave," Valery Prihodko explained. He and his relatives had fled with no clear plans as to where to go.



► Ukrainian forces have recaptured almost the entire Kharkiv region in days, liberating about 300 towns and villages

▲ The Sloviansk thermal power plant - damaged by a Russian military attack - south of Izium, where a mass grave has been found

Ukrainian armoured vehicles were visible on the road to Kupiansk. The Kraken special forces unit, which was established in Kharkiv in March, said it was in control of the city.

The unit posted video of Russian soldiers killed in the fighting. On Saturday it published a video showing Russian prisoners repainting a Kupiansk entry sign the blue and yellow of the Ukrainian flag. "They are cleaning up their own garbage. What remains is to force these scumbags to rebuild everything they destroyed," a message read.

Russia is now in danger of losing Lysychansk, a key Donbas city which it seized over the summer after months of heavy fighting. According to the US thinktank the Institute for the Study of War, the Kremlin has failed to send large-scale reinforcements. It was vulnerable to a Ukrainian counteroffensive.

President Volodymyr Zelenskiy yesterday said his forces would repeat their success in other occupied parts of the country including the southern city of Kherson. "Wherever there is Ukraine, there will be our flag. This atrocity - Russian fascism, which repeats what the Nazis did - will remain nowhere," he wrote on his Telegram channel.

He has said Russia established torture chambers in more than 10 north-eastern areas they occupied, in a police basement in Izium, in Kupiansk, and in a railway station in Kozacha Lopan.

Police and forensic investigators yesterday continued to dig up bodies from a mass grave on the outskirts of Izium. The dead - 443 of them since February - include more than 20 Ukrainian soldiers. Prosecutors say several had their hands tied together, as well as signs of torture including broken limbs.

for anyone who cooperates with the Russian education system, citing the role of teachers in spreading the historical revisionism partly fuelling Russia's invasion.

The recent surprise success of the Ukrainian counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region, as well as a strike on administrative buildings in the centre of occupied Kherson with long-range HIMARS missiles on Friday, may be giving those teachers sleepless nights.

In recent days, Ukrainian authorities claim to have detained a group of teachers sent from Russia to the occupied Kharkiv region and left behind when the Russian army retreated. The deputy prime minister, Iryna Vereshchuk, said they could face up to 12 years in jail.

While it was not immediately possible to verify these reports, there is no doubt Moscow has made plans to send Russian teachers into the occupied areas. Stremousov claimed that some "want to come over and help us out". Occupation authorities in the neighbouring Zaporizhzhia region said in late August that they expected 500 teachers to arrive from Russia, with

part of their job being to "help" local teachers make the transition to the Russian curriculum.

In July, the Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta spoke to Yuri Baranov, a history teacher from the Urals, who had applied for a transfer to Zaporizhzhia. "I have a personal dislike for Ukraine," he said. "Not for the people but for the state, which has brainwashed its citizens for the past 30 years and taught them to hate Russians ... We cannot destroy all Ukrainian Nazis, so we will have to solve the problem with other methods."

He added he hoped he and his wife would be given a house with a nice garden when they arrived.



▲ Children going into school on the first day of term in occupied Kherson

Halyna said no Russian teachers had yet arrived in her town, but there were persistent rumours they may be coming soon. She had already had a phone call from a local official who told her that her home would be requisitioned.

The school opened for the new year on 1 September, with about one-third of the previous number of teachers and students, and armed Russian soldiers on guard.

The occupation authorities have threatened parents that their children could be sent to orphanages if they do not sign up for the newly Russified school. In the occupied Kherson region, authorities announced a cash payment of 10,000 roubles (£143) for every child who registered for the school year.

Meanwhile, Halyna, with other teaching colleagues, has set up an online school that continues to teach the Ukrainian curriculum to students who have fled their hometown, and some still there.

"I'm just waiting every day for our army to liberate the town," Halyna said. "I hope it happens and I hope it happens soon."

Football Russia urges Uefa to ban Ukraine boss for expressing wish to fight

Daniel Boffey
 Chief reporter

Russia has urged Uefa to ban the manager of the Ukraine men's national team from football after he expressed a wish to fight Vladimir Putin's invading forces, the Guardian can reveal.

The Football Union of Russia (FUR) has written to the governing body accusing Oleksandr Petrakov of discriminating against Russians and failing to remain politically neutral.

Denis Rogachev, the deputy secretary general of the FUR, cited comments carried in Italy's Corriere dello Sport and Russia's Sport Express as evidence of Petrakov's guilt.

In a letter to Uefa, Petrakov is accused of breaching codes of conduct by calling for Russians to be banned from international sport and talking about his hopes of joining the armed forces. The latter comments were first made by Petrakov in an interview in April with the Guardian.

"I thought, if they come to Kyiv, I will pick up a weapon and defend my city," Petrakov said. "I am 64 but I felt it was normal to do this. I think I could take two or three enemies out."

Petrakov, now 65, said in the interview that he had spoken to a member of Ukraine's government shortly after Russia's invasion about joining the territorial defence. He was advised that his age and lack of military experience made it unwise.

The FUR said the comments breached Fifa and Uefa codes prohibiting "discrimination of any kind against a country" and seeking to promote football "in a spirit of peace".

The Ukrainian Association of Football said: "When his country was attacked by invading inhumans, [Petrakov] was ready to defend his land, his women and children."

"He was not accepted into the army due to his lack of military experience, but his step is a testament to his devotion to the country and patriotism."

"What kind of discrimination can we talk about in relation to a nation that deliberately commits genocide against another nation?"

Petrakov won praise in June for his conduct in Britain when his team ended Scotland's hopes of World Cup qualification at Hampden Park before losing in Cardiff to Wales.

Rogachev's carefully worded letter makes no reference to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the war in which thousands of civilians and military personnel have died.

"The statements by the head coach, Oleksandr Petrakov, are made against the background of the political conflict between the two countries and represents a political message which obviously violates the fundamental principle of political neutrality," he wrote.

"Moreover, the head coach's behaviour can be regarded as involvement on [sic] promoting public hatred on [a] national basis and [the] use of football to assert the political views."

The FUR claims that Petrakov effectively made a "call for violence" and that his comments are "discriminatory on a national basis, as Oleksandr Petrakov calls for suspending all Russian athletes and imposing this sanction to all citizens of the Russian Federation without any legal justification".

Russian football clubs and national teams have been suspended from all competitions by Fifa and Uefa but the ban does not cover individual players.

The FUR notes the precedent of a life ban and €100,000 (£87,000) fine given to an employee of Qarabag in Azerbaijan after he posted a message on Facebook in which he called for Armenians, including "children, women, old people", to be killed.

The union highlighted that Uefa requested Fifa "spread this sanction worldwide".

A complaint to Uefa's disciplinary body prompts an investigation. Agreement on a sanction would require the support of a majority of the body, which is made up of a president, two vice-presidents and between three and seven members.

Uefa said: "We cannot comment on individual cases. When complaints are received, they are dealt with in accordance with the provisions of the disciplinary regulations. We have no further information at this stage."

'Illusory goals' Pop star condemns war

The Russian singer Alla Pugacheva has for the first time spoken out publicly against the war in Ukraine.

Her husband, Maxim Galkin, joined journalists, human rights activists and Kremlin opponents in being labelled a "foreign agent" last week for opposing the war.

Addressing the Russian justice ministry, Pugacheva, 73, told her 3.4 million Instagram followers: "I am asking you to include me on the foreign agents list of my beloved country. Because I stand in solidarity with my husband, who is an honest and ethical person, a true and incorruptible Russian patriot, who only wishes for prosperity, peace and freedom of expression in his motherland."

The pop icon said her husband wanted "the end of the deaths of our boys for illusory goals that make our country a pariah and weigh heavily on the lives of its citizens". Agence France-Presse

Eyewitness



▼ Paris

The oval room at the Richelieu site of France's National Library, which is open again after renovations lasting 12 years PHOTOGRAPH: REX/SHUTTERSTOCK



Call for criminal inquiry after asylum seekers 'induced' to cross US state lines

Nina Lakhani

New York

Attorneys representing Venezuelan asylum seekers flown thousands of miles to an affluent holiday island in Massachusetts at the behest of Republican governors have formally requested that authorities open a criminal investigation, claiming the victims were "induced to board airplanes and cross state lines under false pretences".

Lawyers for Civil Rights (LCR), a Boston-based group representing 30 of the 48 people flown from Texas to Martha's Vineyard on Wednesday, said: "Individuals, working in concert with state officials, including the Florida governor, made numerous false promises [to the migrants] - including of work opportunities,

schooling for their children, and immigration assistance - in order to induce them to travel."

The Martha's Vineyard case is part of a series of legally and ethically controversial moves by southern border state Republican governors to transport migrants and asylum seekers to so-called liberal cities to supposedly embarrass the Biden administration in the run-up to the midterm elections.

According to LCR, which is providing pro bono legal assistance to the asylum seekers, the Venezuelans were duped in what was essentially a coordinated political stunt targeting vulnerable people based on their race and country of origin.

Those flown to the holiday island included women and children as young as two years old.

LCR has written to the US attorney

Rachael Rollins and the Massachusetts attorney general, Maura Healey, requesting they open criminal investigations, as "we strongly believe that criminal laws were broken by the perpetrators of this stunt".

In a statement, LCR said: "This cowardly political stunt has placed our clients in peril. Upon arrival, numerous individuals had to be rushed to the hospital, in need of medical care. Some now have immigration hearings as early as Monday thousands of miles away."

It was only when the plane was midair that people were told they were heading to Martha's Vineyard and not Boston, according to LCR. Florida's governor, Ron DeSantis, has denied that the migrants were duped, claiming that they signed waivers knowing where they were going.

The migrants were later moved



▲ The Venezuelans are moved from Martha's Vineyard to Cape Cod

voluntarily to temporary shelter at a military base in Cape Cod.

The governors of Texas, Arkansas and Florida, who say they are protesting against what they say is the failure by the federal government to secure the border, have spent millions of taxpayer dollars - including funds allocated for Covid relief - in transporting thousands of migrants

and refugees to Washington DC, New York and Chicago. On Saturday about 50 people, including a one-month-old baby, were sent by bus from Texas to the Washington home of the vice-president, Kamala Harris.

The strategy, which has been condemned by the White House and rights groups, has caused further stress for many of the people, who often aim to reunite with relatives while their asylum claims are processed.

The Venezuelan population in the US has more than doubled in the past decade amid an unprecedented exodus caused by the country's economic and political crises, which have driven out millions of people from the once stable and prosperous country. The largest number live in Florida, where local advocates and community leaders accused DeSantis of game-playing.

Yesterday Dick Durbin, chair of the Senate judiciary committee, condemned the southern Republican governors for using migrants for "political purposes". "It is pathetic that these governors are taking advantage of these helpless people," he said. "It's always the kids that end up being the victims."

'I must vote' Battle for abortion rights drives women to register

Poppy Noor

Sonya Koenig is scared. A 19-year-old student from Kalamazoo, Michigan, Koenig often stays up until 2am thinking. Sometimes she paces up and down the hall, or speaks to her roommate about nightmare scenarios in which she ends up pregnant and needing an abortion.

"Being in college, I hear stories all the time of women getting drugged at parties, or just walking down the street, and something unfortunate can happen," says Koenig, a freshman at Michigan State University. "A guy can walk away, but [these abortion bans] mean the woman has to choose: 'Do I want to give this baby up ... or raise this child with no help from anybody?' That's a really hard decision to make."

In August, a week after her 19th birthday, Koenig signed up to vote. She is one of many women registering in droves since the US supreme court overturned the constitutional right to an abortion on 24 June.



► Demonstrators protest against the supreme court's decision in June to remove the federal right to abortion
PHOTOGRAPH: NATHAN HOWARD/GETTY IMAGES

supreme court agreed to put the question of abortion rights directly to voters in November, after 730,000 Michiganders signed a petition requesting a vote.

"I tend to do the bigger elections ... I'm disabled, and standing in line for a long time is not the best for me," says Diamond Doré, 30, from Detroit. "But seeing [the supreme court] decision, I was like, I have to vote. I'm black and queer, and I know this means a lot of black women are going to die. I couldn't stay silent."

A grassroots activist, Doré says she has seen anti-abortion voters suddenly wanting to protect abortion. "When this happened, a lot of people sat back and said, 'Oh, dang, this is for real. It's not just about me, this is about tons of other women and pregnant persons around America,'" says Doré.

News of a 10-year-old girl from Ohio travelling 200 miles to Indiana to get abortion care after being raped was one thing Doré has seen sway voters. Add to that list people being forced to carry unsuccessful pregnancies to full term, at risk to their own lives, and the threat of criminalisation.

In Michigan, Koenig recalls feeling stirred when she heard the late supreme court justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, one of her idols, talk about abortion as a human right, rather than simply an issue of gender.

"Forcing a woman to have a child, it affects everything," Koenig says. "It's not just an issue of abortion. It's a racial issue. It's a women's rights issue."

"And I feel like a lot of these politicians are so concerned with their power, they don't think about how we're going to support babies that are going to be born."

'Seeing the supreme court decision, I was like, I have to vote. This means a lot of black women will die. I couldn't stay silent'

Diamond Doré
Activist

organisers focusing on women and young people in voter registration drives all over the US. The first hints of that bloc's voting power came in early August, when women in Kansas came out overwhelmingly to protect abortion rights.

That trend seems to be continuing in other states - a threat to Republican lawmakers, who in recent weeks have quietly removed abortion-related election pledges from their websites and softened their anti-abortion messaging.

That pivot might not be enough to hide the party's hardline agenda: this week, Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina proposed a nationwide ban on abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

TargetSmart, a polling analysis company, studied new voter registration from 45 states following the supreme court

decision that reversed federal abortion rights - the group said female registration shot up 12%.

In Wisconsin, a battleground state that voted for Joe Biden by a margin of just 30,000 votes in 2020, women are out-registering men by 16%. New registrants also skew hugely Democratic: 52% of newly registered voters in Wisconsin, compared with just 17% of new registrations by Republicans.

"In my 28 years of analysing elections, I had never seen anything like what's happened in the past two months in American politics," Tom Bonier, the chief executive of TargetSmart, wrote in the New York Times. "Women are registering to vote in numbers I never witnessed before. I've run out of superlatives to describe how different this moment is."

This week, the Michigan



'I lost everything'

Grief and rage follow Italy's flood havoc as politicians look away

Angela Giuffrida
Pianello di Ostra

Her face and clothes splattered with mud, Isabella Puttilli, 74, fought back her grief as she sifted through the ruins of her home, among the dozens destroyed by catastrophic flooding that struck Italy's central Marche region on Thursday night.

"I lost everything," she said. "Food, furniture, I need to throw it all away." Her emotions gave way as she entered the bedroom, where there is a photograph on the wall of her and her husband, who died seven years ago, on their wedding day. "He loved music, and had over 200 records," she said. "All have been destroyed, really precious items that I'll never get back."

Puttilli is from Pianello di Ostra, a town of fewer than 800 residents where five of the 11 people so far confirmed to have died in the floods lost their lives. Among them were Giuseppe Tisba, 65, and his

son Andrea, 25. The pair had been trying to move their car from an underground garage when the banks of the Misa river, close to their apartment building, burst, sending a deluge of water into the garage and trapping them inside. Their neighbour, Diego Chiappetti, 51, was killed in the same way.

The town's other victims were Ennaji Mohamed, 41, and Ferdinando Olivi, 80, whose grandson launched a desperate plea for help on Facebook as the lashing rain fell, almost wiping Pianello di Ostra off the map within a couple of hours. "Ferdinando used to have a driving school and he was my instructor," said Pietro, who was standing outside his home as diggers cleared away debris. "The whole town is in mourning, everyone knows everyone here."

It was the worst storm to hit Marche since 2014, with 420ml of rain falling in a day - a third of the region's yearly average. The regional capital of Ancona and the areas around it were also badly affected, as was Senigallia, a town along the Adriatic coast.

The storms turned streets into rivers, flipped cars upside down and felled trees. The two still missing are eight-year-old Mattia Luconi, who was swept from his mother's arms as they tried to leave their car, and a 56-year-old woman.

As Marche residents mourn the victims, anger is rising, most of it aimed at politicians as Italy heads towards general elections on 25 September. "With all of this disaster, nobody will go and vote," said Anna Rita Camerucci as she cleaned her wrecked home. "I certainly won't. People are very angry - there was no warning [of the storms] and no preparation."

Extreme weather events have been occurring more often in Italy. In August last year, temperatures in the country hit 48.8C, breaking the European record. A severe drought amid an intense, protracted heatwave this summer followed a mild winter with lower-than-average rain and snowfall. In early July, 11 people were killed when a huge mass of ice from a glacier on the north side of the Marmolada mountain in the Dolomites broke away, causing an avalanche.

This summer, the seas around Italy were 5C warmer than average. "It's possible that the very warm sea fuelled this storm," said Luca Mercalli, president of the Italian Meteorological Society.

But until Friday, when Enrico Letta, the leader of the centre-left Democratic party (PD), asked why the climate crisis was not the top priority, the topic was absent from politics. "They don't think it's an important problem," said Mercalli. "In fact, they see it as an obstacle for the economy."

He was among the scientists who launched a petition in August,

▼ Isabella Puttilli in the living room of her house, ruined by the floods that hit the Marche region. PHOTOGRAPH: ROBERTO SALOMONE/THE GUARDIAN

On brink of power, Italian far-right chief changes her tune over EU

Jennifer Rankin
Brussels

At a gathering of Europe's far right in February 2020, the leader of the Brothers of Italy, Giorgia Meloni, railed against the "Brussels technobureaucrats" who she said wanted to impose "the Soviet plan to destroy national and religious identities". Now on the brink of becoming Italy's first far-right prime minister, Meloni is singing a rather different tune.

In *Il Messaggero* newspaper last month, Meloni wrote that she wanted to work "in compliance with European regulations and in agreement with the [European] Commission" to promote growth and innovation. In a video message she also hit back at the "absurd narrative" her party would jeopardise Italy's access to €191.5bn (£166.26bn) in EU Covid recovery funds. Meloni, who has sought to distance the Brothers of Italy from its fascist origins, said her party shared "values and experiences" with UK Conservatives, US Republicans and Israel's Likud party.

While Brussels worried over Italy's 2018 election that brought the populist Five Star Movement and Matteo Salvini's hardline Northern League to power, EU officials are less anxious about a Meloni-led right-wing coalition, which is expected to unite Brothers of Italy with Salvini's party and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia.

Since that gathering in 2020, Covid has upended the political landscape, leaving Italy with the EU's highest death toll. Under the outgoing prime minister, Mario Draghi, Italy secured the largest share from the EU's Covid recovery programme and is in line to receive the €191.5bn over six years.

"It's in nobody's interest to undermine the possibility of getting European money," said the economist Lorenzo Codogno.

Referring to Meloni's support for EU-wide energy price caps, Nathalie Tocci, the head of the Institute for International Affairs in Rome, added: "We are basically in the midst of a crisis that she herself recognises does not have a national solution ... this is a crisis that needs European solutions."



Dozens injured in Iran protests over woman's death after arrest

Patrick Wintour

More than 30 Iranians were injured, some seriously, in protests over the death of a 22-year-old Kurdish woman three days after she was arrested and reportedly beaten by morality police in Tehran.

The circumstances of Mahsa Amini's death on Friday are hotly contested, but her family denied official reports that she suffered from epilepsy and instead claimed she was beaten by the police.

She had been visiting Tehran with her brother when she was picked up by police outside a metro station and put into a van for allegedly not complying with Iran's hijab regulations.

The controversy is now widening into a dispute not just about the enforcement of the hijab in cities, but the accountability of the morality police, as well as mistrust towards government denials of wrongdoing.

The death, which was front page news in some Iranian newspapers,

makes for a difficult backdrop for President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to New York for the UN general assembly.

His visit was already facing protests from human rights campaigners and Republicans opposed to Joe Biden taking any steps to reopen the Iran nuclear deal. Raisi has called for a report into Amini's death.

Demonstrators initially gathered outside Kasra hospital in Tehran, where Amini died after she collapsed in the detention centre. Her body was then transported by plane to Saqqez in her native province of Kurdistan in north-west Iran for an emotional burial, which took place on Saturday.

Police tried to limit the numbers attending the funeral, but 1,000 were reported to have been at the graveside. The protesters then gathered outside the Saqqez governor's office, where the violence occurred. Kurdish human rights groups reported that security forces deployed pepper spray against protesters, leading to more than 30 injuries.

There were also peaceful protests yesterday at the faculty of fine arts at

Tehran university, where a group of 100 students risked punishment and carried posters reading "women, life, freedom", words that were also heard at her funeral.

The crisis has escalated partly due to heavy-handed efforts by the authorities to deny responsibility, releasing edited video footage showing Amini collapsing in a police station but denying she was subjected to any beating.

It was claimed by the interior ministry that she collapsed due to a heart condition, but pictures of her face in hospital showed discolouring around



▲ Mahsa Amini, 22, was reportedly arrested for a breach of hijab rules

her ears that seemed consistent with physical blows.

Amini's father told Ham-Mihan newspaper: "She did not have epilepsy, nor heart disease. The video they showed from the detention centre was also edited. Why didn't they show the footage when they took my daughter out of the van? Why didn't they show what happened in the corridors of the detention centre? It was psychologically stressful for her and it is the police that are responsible for this disaster."

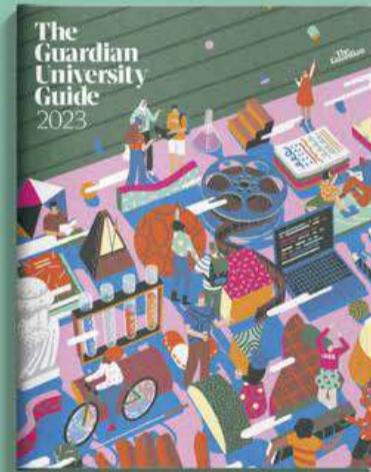
The family has formally demanded all CCTV be released instead of the partial footage so far shown. The hospital said that Amini was brain dead when she arrived there.

"Resuscitation was performed on the patient, the heartbeat returned and the patient was admitted to the intensive care unit. Unfortunately, after 48 hours on Friday, the patient suffered a cardiac arrest again, due to brain death. Despite the efforts of the medical team, they failed to revive her and the patient died," they said in a statement that was deleted from the hospital's Instagram account an hour later.

In a sign of official government concern about the incident and the public response, the interior minister, Ahmad Vahidi, said an investigation was under way but insisted Amini had a history of medical problems stretching back to when she was five.



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Guardian**

▼ Barbecue, leader of the G9 and Family gang, leading a protest last year in the Haitian capital
PHOTOGRAPH: ODELYN JOSEPH/AP



Port-au-Prince

Surviving in a city where violent gangs hold sway

Luke Taylor

Jean Michel thought his neighbourhood in the north of Port-au-Prince, far from the capital's infamous slums, would shield his family from the violence engulfing the Haitian capital.

But in May, young men started coming into town on motorcycles, armed with assault rifles. By June, they were seizing control of the area. And by July the bandits had become the de facto authority, snatching up children to join their efforts to expand their territory, say UN observers in Port-au-Prince.

Women and children as young as one have been killed in the recent wave of violence, a UN report found last month. Teenagers accused of spying for rival gangs have been shot in public and young women and girls have been raped as a form of warfare. Thousands of families like Michel's now live far from

I'm not even angry at the gangs. I'm angry at the government. Now we are in God's hands'

Jean Michel
Resident

home, or shelter in makeshift camps set up by NGOs such as Mercy Corps.

The violence spreading through Port-au-Prince is exacerbating an already desperate humanitarian crisis, says Annalisa Constanzo, who manages food and medical aid programmes for the AVSI Foundation NGO. An estimated 1 million people in the capital are going hungry and basic healthcare is often unavailable.

"Haitians don't have a lot," Constanzo says. "But now what little they do have, they are losing."

Videos appear to show state forces confronting gangs in pitched street battles, but most of these are theatre, says Nicole Philips, legal director at Haitian Bridge, which provides support for refugees. As the government has grown weaker, it has relied more on the gangs to maintain order, she says. What appears to be state resistance often masks that many gangs are working with the government. In areas such as Cité Soleil, gangs are reportedly withholding food to subdue the local population. If protests gain momentum the government could turn to them to quell unrest.

"I'm not even angry at the gangs," said Michel. "I'm angry at the state. They have not taken their responsibility. Now we're in God's hands."

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**The
GuardianWeekly**

Former aide attacks South Korean sexism after allegations halt her political career

Justin McCurry

A senior political aide who was forced to resign during the 2021 South Korean presidential election after rumours circulated about her private life has said that online tormentors drove her to attempt suicide.

Cho Dong-youn made headlines in late November when she was named co-chair of the electoral committee for Lee Jae-myung, the Democratic party's presidential candidate.

Then an assistant professor at Seokyeong University in Seoul, Cho was considered a surprise pick, given her lack of political experience, although she had built a reputation for her knowledge of defence and national security issues.

Lee, who was hoping to follow his ally Moon Jae-in into the presidential Blue House, believed that having a young, working mother of two on his team would appeal to female voters in a campaign that would be dominated by a poisonous debate on gender equality.

But just three days into the job, Cho's political career was over. Now, in an interview with the Guardian, Cho described the toll the episode took on her mental health.

During her 17 years in the army, where she rose to the rank of major, Cho had dreamed of putting her military experience to use in politics.

"One of my dreams after retiring from the army was to bridge the gap between the South Korean military and society," said Cho, who holds a master's degree in public administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and was a World Fellow at Yale.

On the day of her appointment, the

controversial YouTuber Kang Yong-suk, a former conservative lawmaker, claimed Cho had a child out of wedlock in 2011 while she was married to her first husband. The allegation ended Cho's political career.

South Korea's widening income gap and housing crisis took a back-seat to a debate over the country's unhealthy obsession with the private lives of people in the public eye.

Social media and online forums lit up with commentary on her supposed moral failings. Some defended her right to privacy, noting that her experience had no connection with her job as a political strategist.

"I decided to resign because if I hadn't, they would have kept on and on, and my children were still young," Cho said.

Not long after her resignation, she revealed that her son had been born as a result of a sexual assault while she was a student at Kyung Hee University, and not after an extramarital affair, as had been widely reported in the media after Kang's allegations.

"I intended to one day tell my son the truth about what happened to his mum, because I didn't want him to find out from the media and right-wing YouTubers, who don't care about my family. That makes me sad and angry."

Cho's abrupt resignation focused attention on South Korea's poor record on gender equality. South Korean women were quick to embrace the #MeToo movement as it spread from the US and Europe. And they had plenty to be angry about, from an epidemic of invasive footage filmed with spycams to misogynistic online comments over their choice of clothes and hairstyle. They responded with an "escape the corset" campaign that challenged



'A female military officer, working for the Democrats, bothered a lot of people'

Cho Dong-youn
Former army major

outdated expectations, while female speed skaters broke their silence over years of abuse by male coaches.

Some observers were convinced that Cho had been targeted because she was a woman and, worse still, one with a successful military career who had decided to campaign for a liberal.

The right in South Korea uses national security issues to attract

▼ Cho Dong-youn's political career collapsed after she was accused of having an extramarital affair
PHOTOGRAPH: CHO DONG-YOUN

Millions take shelter in Japan as typhoon makes landfall

Agence France-Presse
Izumi

Typhoon Nanmadol landed in south-western Japan last night, with authorities urging millions of people to take shelter from the storm's high winds and torrential rain.

The storm officially made landfall at about 7pm local time as its eye-wall - the region just outside the eye - arrived near Kagoshima, the Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) said.

Gusts of almost 150mph and up to 500mm of rain were registered in less than 24 hours in parts of the south-western Kyushu region.

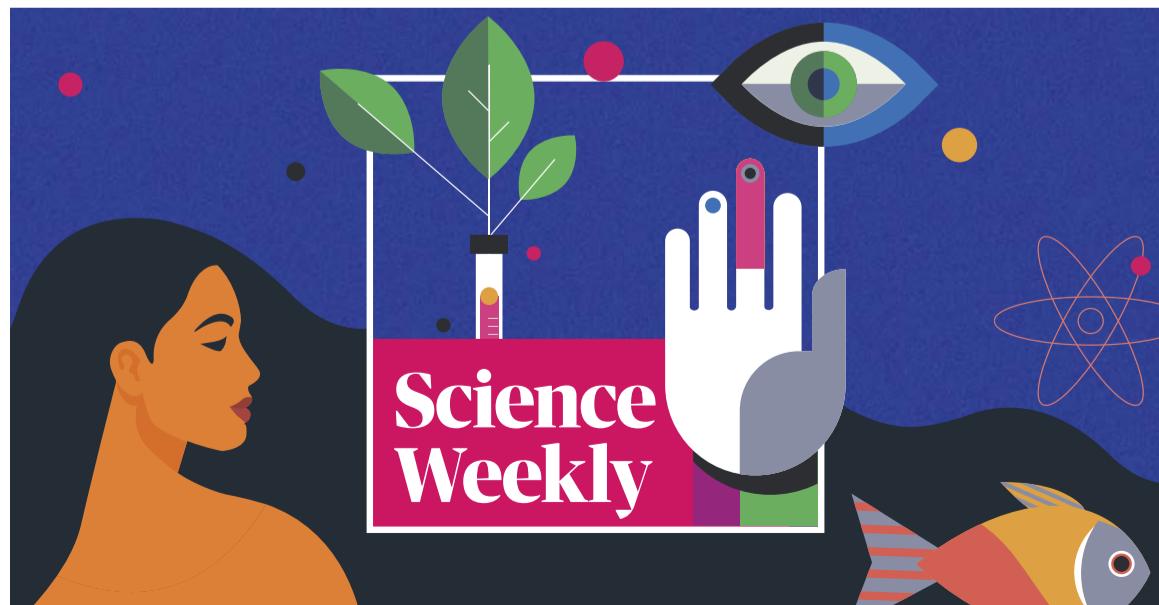
At least 20,000 people spent the night in shelters in Kyushu's Kagoshima and Miyazaki prefectures, where the JMA had issued a rare "special warning" - an alert it gives only when it forecasts conditions seen once in several decades.

The national broadcaster NHK, which collates information from local authorities, said more than 7 million people had been told to move to shelters or take refuge in sturdy buildings to ride out the storm. The evacuation warnings are not mandatory, and authorities have at times struggled to persuade people to move before the arrival of extreme weather.

Nearly 200,000 homes across the region were without power, utility companies said. Trains, flights and ferries were cancelled and even convenience stores - considered a lifeline in disasters - shut their doors.



▲ Kyushu had 500mm of rain in 24 hours and winds of up to 150mph



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Laughing stock**Why is the west coast mainline so bad?**

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Big five energy companies turning away switchers

Anna Tims

Householders in Britain who want to sign up to a new energy company are apparently being obstructed by the largest suppliers, in potential breach of their licence obligations.

The “big five” energy companies are telling online applicants to remain with their current supplier because of the volatile energy market. According to the industry regulator, Ofgem, suppliers must accept new customers as a condition of their licence. The issue emerged after consumers reported being unable to find a supplier. Some said when they applied for a quote, a message said they should stay with their supplier and that the company was not providing quotes.

Michael Donagy, a student and retail assistant, said after moving to a new home he had been unable to open an account in his name with

the current supplier and unable to switch provider because none would respond. “When I filled out the web form for the current supplier, a message told me to stick to my current provider,” he said. “I’ve tried to call and it was a task just finding a phone number, and I’ve spent ... three hours on hold without getting through.”

In July, Ofgem launched a “switching programme” to make it easier and faster to change supplier. The aim is to boost competition by encouraging customers to shop around. However, soaring energy prices have ended competitive fixed-price contracts, with the mandated Ofgem price cap usually the best tariff available.

Many price comparison websites no longer offer quotes. However, customers often switch because of poor customer service, according to Martyn James of the complaints website Resolver. “Just because there aren’t any switching deals doesn’t mean people won’t want to switch,” he said.

The web form told me to stick with my current provider

Michael Donagy
Student

The Guardian attempted to obtain tariffs from British Gas, E.ON, EDF, ScottishPower and Ovo Energy. All five websites stated that they were not currently providing online quotes and that customers were better off remaining with their current supplier.

British Gas confirmed via web chat that it was not accepting new customers because Ofgem advised against switching while prices remained volatile. EDF and ScottishPower said they would accept new customers on a standard variable rate by telephone, an option not mentioned on their websites. However, EDF’s

contacts page told customers only to use its busy phone lines in an emergency, and ScottishPower referred people to the website due to high call volumes.

An E.ON spokesperson said: “With energy prices at a record high, it is recommended that customers stay with their existing supplier. However, customers can sign up to receive an alert as soon as we are in a position to offer competitive fixed-price tariffs for new customers, or can call us to discuss their tariff.”

British Gas and Ovo did not respond to requests for a comment.

Ofgem denied advising customers to avoid switching. “In fact, suppliers *must* take on new customers when approached by them.” It declined to say whether it was aware of suppliers blocking new customers, but said it investigated those it believed may have breached conditions of their licences. After the Guardian submitted evidence, it added: “We hold suppliers to account on [accepting new customers] by using all forms of intelligence shared with us.”

Some suppliers, such as Octopus Energy, have been accepting new customers. Although it declines requests for online quotes and advises customers to stick with their supplier, its small print provides a number for those who still require a quote.

Liverpool port workers set to strike for two weeks over pay

Jess Clark

Hundreds of workers at one of the UK’s largest container ports will go on strike for two weeks from this evening in a dispute over pay – a move that could further disrupt UK supply chains.

Unite members at the Port of Liverpool will begin the industrial action after turning down a pay offer from the Peel Ports Group, which owns the site.

The company said workers had rejected an 8.3% pay rise, enhanced with a one-off payment of £750. The union described the offer as a real-terms pay cut because of the soaring rate of inflation, arguing that the port’s owners could afford a higher increase.

The dispute will overlap with a planned second eight-day strike at Felixstowe, the UK’s largest container port, which starts next week.

Unite members at the Suffolk port, which handles almost half the container freight that enters the UK, are preparing to halt work from 27 September after rejecting a 7% pay deal offered by management.

A previous eight-day strike at Felixstowe, which handles goods for 17 different shipping lines operating to and from 700 ports, brought it to a standstill.

The latest round of walkouts threaten fresh disruption to UK supply chains after the shocks of Brexit and the Covid pandemic, and follow a summer of industrial action that has hit sectors across the economy including the railways, postal service, law courts and telecoms.

David Huck, the Peel Ports chief operating officer, said: “I am deeply disappointed Unite has rejected our significant pay package after many months of negotiation. This is bad news for our employees, families and other local employers.

“We fully recognise our colleagues’ concerns on the cost of living crisis, and that’s why we have responded with a pay package that represents a 10% average increase in annual pay.”

Unite’s general secretary, Sharon Graham, said: “Workers across the country are sick to death of being told to take a hit on their wages and living standards while employer after employer is guilty of rampant profiteering.”

She said the port’s owners needed to table a “reasonable offer and fulfil its previous pay promises”.

Four-day week could ease cost of living crisis, says thinktank

Jasper Jolly

A four-day week with no loss of pay would save parents thousands of pounds a year in childcare and commuting costs, according to a thinktank that suggests the policy could help to alleviate the cost of living crisis.

Someone with a child under two would save £1,440 in childcare and £340 on commuting on average across a year if they did not have to travel to work one day a week, Autonomy calculated.

Campaigners and economists in favour of a four-day week have tended to focus on the benefits to workers in the form of increased leisure time and potential improvements in productivity that enable companies to carry out the same amount of work but in less time.

Autonomy said the policy would also help workers struggling with the increased cost of living, with the UK in the middle of a period of high inflation, particularly of energy bills.

The commuting cost calculation is based on an average annual bill of about £1,700, drawn from a 2019 survey of 2,000 full-time, part-time and



▲ Someone with a child under two could save £1,440 in childcare and £340 on commuting every year
PHOTOGRAPH: WARREN GOLDSWAIN/GETTY

self-employed people from across the UK. The average annual childcare cost estimate was £7,200 for a family with one child, according to data for 2021 from the Trades Union Congress – although in many parts of the country working parents spend significantly more.

The analysis comes after a ground-breaking UK pilot of a four-day week

passed its halfway point; 73 companies employing about 3,300 workers have signed up to the six-month trial, which will end in November.

The trial is being run by the 4 Day Week campaign, which is directly supported by Autonomy. The trial is thought to be the biggest scheme of its kind in the world.

Any evaluation of potential financial benefits to a four-day week would also have to be weighed against spending on leisure activities on the extra day off, as well as costs such as home heating bills if workers and

children remain at home. Academics hope to analyse the trial to understand the positive and negative effects of working a day less.

Will Stronge, the director of research at Autonomy, said: “The benefits of a four-day week for the wellbeing of workers and boosting productivity are well known, but the impact it could have on the cost of living has so far been overlooked.

“A four-day week with no loss of pay could play a crucial role in supporting workers to make ends meet over the next few years.”

Analysis
Larry Elliott


After a delayed start, the new government is still faced with a sticky wicket

Crunch time will come quickly for Liz Truss. After 10 days of national mourning to mark the death of Elizabeth II, Britain's economic problems will return to centre stage this week. On Thursday the Bank of England announces its latest decision on interest rates. The following day, Kwasi Kwarteng's debut as chancellor will be the latest in a string of mini-budgets. Both will be significant occasions.

In one sense, Truss has benefited from attention being on the monarchy rather than on politics during her first two weeks in the job. She has been able to settle in at Downing Street and think about what to do with her new-found power. In cricketing parlance, the prime minister has had time to play herself in.

But, to extend the metaphor, Truss is soon to be faced by some nasty, short-pitched bowling. If things go wrong, her time at the crease will be brief.

Although inflation is at 9.9%, the economy is probably already in recession and the pound only one further serious downward lurch away from parity against the dollar, the government has things going for it. Ukraine's military victories in the past week have had a marked impact on wholesale gas prices, which are down sharply this month. An end to the war, while far from a done deal, looks more feasible than it has at any time since Russia's invasion in February.

What's more, the labour market is holding up pretty well for an economy that has essentially moved sideways since the start of the year. The unemployment rate is its lowest since early 1974.

If the government wants to be super-optimistic it can take comfort from the fact that previous periods of sterling weakness have not always been bad for the economy. The devaluation that followed Black Wednesday 30 years ago was the catalyst for a period of strong export-led growth in the mid-1990s. The last time the pound flirted with parity against the dollar was early 1985, but in the next three years the economy boomed.

Not so fast, though. After Black Wednesday the impact of the cheaper pound was bolstered by cuts in interest rates. This week the Bank of England's monetary policy committee (MPC) will raise interest rates for a seventh successive time. Nor does the comparison with the mid-1980s entirely stack up either, because back then Britain was a net exporter of energy and less reliant on food imports than it is today. A lower pound makes imported energy and food more expensive.

Although overshadowed by the Queen's death, Truss's first decision as prime minister was a big one: the commitment to cap the average annual household energy bill at £2,500 for the next two winters will boost consumer spending power and will make the recession shorter and shallower. The government is budgeting for the cost to be up to £150bn, which would make it the most expensive

intervention by the state in peacetime.

Further details of the plan will be outlined in Kwarteng's mini-budget, a term that hardly does it justice, since the chancellor is planning to announce a massive increase in spending, big tax cuts, a major package of deregulatory reforms, and lots more borrowing.

There is even talk that he will announce changes to the Bank of England's inflation mandate. Kwarteng's statement will not be accompanied by an independent analysis from the Office for Budget Responsibility on the likely impact of all these measures on growth, inflation and the public finances: a regrettable lack of scrutiny when the financial markets are so jittery.

It is not hard to envisage circumstances in which the markets respond badly to the Bank's interest-rate decision and sell sterling - either because they think the MPC has done too little or because they think that it is guilty of overkill. The chancellor will then have to explain why in addition to borrowing to fund the energy package he is also borrowing to fund tax cuts.

▼ Liz Truss and Kwasi Kwarteng are frustrated by the UK economy's lack of vim in the past 15 years
PHOTOGRAPH: LEON NEAL/GETTY IMAGES



Truss and Kwarteng are frustrated by the economy's lack of vim in the 15 years since the global financial crisis erupted in 2007 and prepared to allow the budget deficit to balloon. The theory is that tax cuts plus deregulation will lead to faster growth, which will eventually lead to a smaller deficit. A growth target of 2.5% will be set, modest by historic standards.

As the Resolution Foundation thinktank has pointed out, income per head rose more rapidly under Elizabeth II than under any other monarch dating back to 1271 (and before that too, almost certainly). The average growth in per capita

Raising the underlying trend rate of growth to 2.5% is a monumental task that will require a lot more than tax cuts and attacks on red tape

incomes for the past 70 years has been 2% a year, double its rate when the UK was the world's leading economy under Queen Victoria.

The economy's overall growth rate - once growth in the labour force is accounted for - is even higher, standing at 2.4% since modern records began in the mid-1950s, according to Ruth Gregory of Capital Economics. But the average is dragged down by the poor performance of the economy in recent years.

Productivity growth has averaged below 1% a year for the past two decades, and even allowing for a rising labour force, that leaves the economy's underlying trend rate of growth at between 1% and 1.5%. Raising that to 2.5% is a monumental task, which will require a lot more than tax cuts and attacks on red tape.

Britain's problem is not that it is over-taxed nor that it is excessively burdened with regulations (the labour market is one of the more flexible in the OECD) but that investment is so low. Setting a growth target is one thing, achieving it quite another.

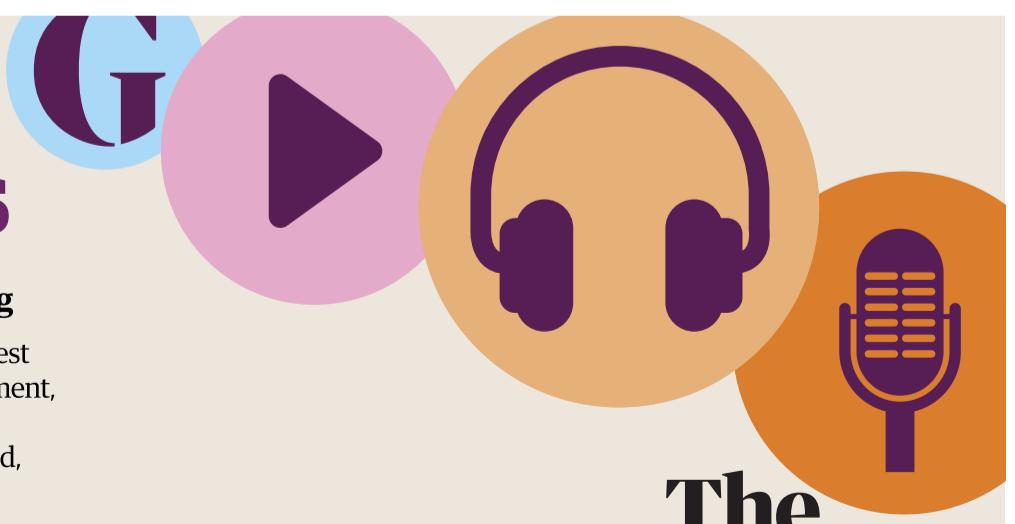
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**The
Guardian**

Off track

How Avanti West Coast spiralled into decline

Gwyn Topham
Transport correspondent

Like England Test cricketers cowardly praying for rain, Avanti West Coast, the operator of trains on Britain's main intercity artery, could well be thanking the heavens for the latest intervention to mask its failures.

A nationwide drivers' strike coinciding with the Conservative party conference in Birmingham in October will at least provide a handy excuse when thousands of London-based ministers, MPs, their political aides and other influential visitors are confronted with the extraordinary prospect of not being able to book a train between the UK's two largest cities.

For long-suffering passengers wanting to take the fast service between the capital and hubs such as Manchester, Liverpool and Glasgow, it won't feel that different. Nevertheless, overshadowed by Britain's seismic political upheavals of recent weeks, Avanti has largely dodged the political scrutiny and sanction that its astonishing collapse merited.

Six weeks have now elapsed since the operating company, a joint venture between FirstGroup and Italy's state-owned Trenitalia, announced it was suspending ticket sales and cutting its schedules from seven to four trains an hour due to "severe staff shortages" - leaving just one train an hour on critical routes, and with plenty of those still being cancelled due to lack of drivers and crew.

Regulars report a spiral of decline: overcrowded carriages, knock-on delays, understocked shops, unflushable toilets. The very fact of running a reduced timetable means that one additional cancellation piles on more and more disgruntled passengers into even worse conditions, multiplying the complaints and stress for the frontline crew.

While the rail industry reported it was doing everything it could last week to help people travel to pay their respects in London to Queen Elizabeth, Avanti could only muster a few extra services - with some planned additions also cancelled due to staff sickness. Chartering extra trains for the funeral weekend

► Passengers have been left with just one train an hour on critical Avanti West Coast routes

PHOTOGRAPH: JEFF J MITCHELL/GETTY

has only further underlined the company's desperation.

One consistently vocal critic has been the mayor of Greater Manchester, Andy Burnham, who demanded urgent intervention for the commemoration. But as he noted, even those people who managed to book travel in recent days were barely receiving adequate services - reporting "short-notice cancellations; broken on-board equipment; and short-formed trains, preventing them from taking the seats they had booked".

What has gone wrong, and how can it be fixed? The crucial immediate factor declared by Avanti when it first admitted it was unable to fulfil its schedules was the lack of drivers, or at least ones willing to work overtime. About 400 services a week were operated

400

The number of Avanti services a week that used to be operated by volunteer drivers on rest days

50

The number of services each week Avanti chiefs now say they can operate with volunteer help

by volunteers on rest days; Avanti now could only muster up the crew for 50. The managing director, Phil Whittingham, poured oil on the fire by declaring it "unofficial strike action", infuriating the Aslef union and poisoning relations.

Whether or not that misstep cost Whittingham his job, he officially departed last week. With their contract coming up for renewal in talks next month, Avanti may have needed to offer up a change and a reboot to the Department for Transport.

Few industry observers are able to explain exactly why the operator has plunged into particular trouble when most rivals also rely on rest day working from staff who have also overwhelmingly backed strikes. Some, like TransPennine Express and Northern, have indeed also suffered frequent short-notice

cancellations and cut timetables due to lack of trains; and LNER is also running fewer services.

But Avanti is the most prominent and remains, even in its stripped-down schedule, the most unreliable, according to recent data: more than one in five of its remaining trains were more than half an hour late on Friday.

Questions over management are clearly in the frame, with the pronounced decline since the FirstGroup-Trenitalia joint venture took over in 2019 from what had been, ever since privatisation, Virgin Trains. Christian Wolmar, a rail historian, says of Virgin's era: "The toilets stank but at least the trains ran, to a much busier timetable, and it was reasonably reliable. Now the service is very poor, the staff don't come through the train, there are just the basic announcements and nothing else - there seems to be a lack of engagement throughout."

Covid has obviously played a huge part: from the stress and workload sending more drivers into retirement, but changing also the whole financial underpinning of the railway, with franchises ripped up as passengers stayed home, leaving operators on emergency contracts.

Wolmar says: "There is no profit except in cutting costs: the Treasury is not interested in revenue growth. It opens a wider question - I don't see why anyone is going to take on these passenger service contracts for 1.5% margins. It doesn't seem worth the reputational risk."

What it has allowed, however, is for Avanti to run a fraction of its timetable without facing financial collapse. And given that the former transport secretary Grant Shapps appeared to concur that "unofficial strike action" was to blame, Avanti could escape any penalty for failing to run services.

'The toilets stank [during Virgin's era] but the trains ran and were reliable'

Christian Wolmar
Rail historian

For some, Avanti's woes speak to a wider industry malaise. "There's a strong sense of drift in the railway in general," says Roger Ford of Modern Railways magazine.

A promised root-and-branch review led by Keith Williams, a former chief executive of British Airways, was delayed and shelved during Covid. It was unveiled in spring last year but inflation has since turned industrial unease into a standoff, and the architects of the Williams-Shapps plan are moving off the scene.

A new Great British Railways is supposed to be bringing new passenger service contracts to rail by 2024; but then, Avanti originally came into being as a joint venture that would allow First Group to bring HS2 trains to the west coast in 2026, a fanciful thought now.

A spokesperson for Avanti West Coast said: "We know we're not delivering the service our customers rightly expect and we apologise for the enormous frustration and inconvenience. Resolving this situation requires a robust plan that will allow us to gradually increase services without being reliant on train crew overtime, which has fallen dramatically in recent weeks."

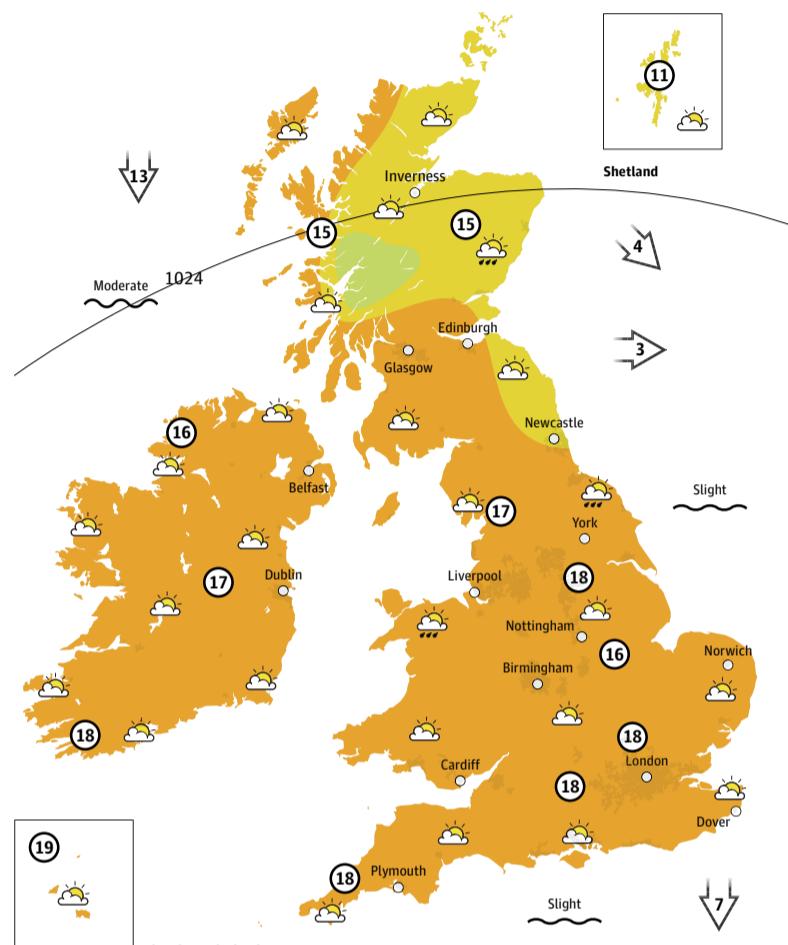
The company's promised recovery will require it to find a way to recruit and train enough drivers and regain the goodwill of staff. In the meantime, Ford says, the DfT is unlikely to want to take away its contract and inherit the mess.



Weather

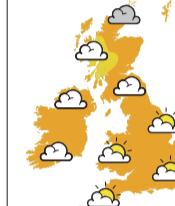
Monday 19 September 2022

UK and Ireland Noon today

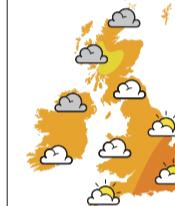


Forecast

Low 10 High 18
Tomorrow



Low 10 High 19
Wednesday



Carbon count

Daily atmospheric CO₂ readings from Mauna Loa, Hawaii (ppm):
Latest 17 Sep 2022 415.54
Weekly average 11 Sep 2022 416.05
18 Sep 2021 413.07
18 Sep 2012 391.10
Pre-industrial base 280
Safe level 350
Source: NOAA-ESRL

Around the UK

London



Manchester



Edinburgh



Belfast



Birmingham



Brighton



Bristol



Cardiff



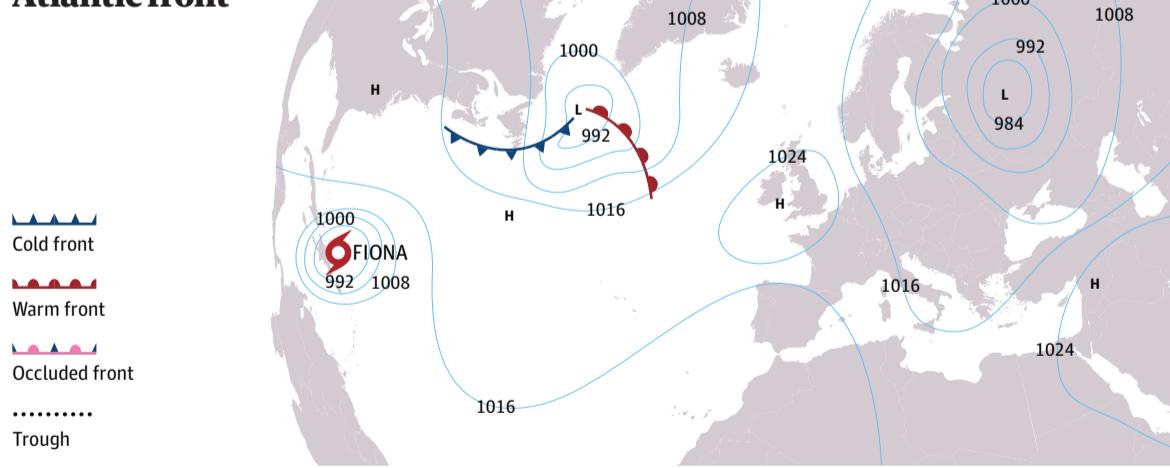
Newcastle



Penzance



Atlantic front



High tides

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	0856	3.2m	2128	3.3m
Avonmouth	0056	9.3m	1325	9.1m
Barrow	0633	6.6m	1917	6.7m
Belfast	0608	2.8m	1841	3.0m
Cobh	--	--	1225	3.0m
Cromer	0125	3.8m	1432	3.7m
Dover	0615	5.1m	1845	5.0m
Dublin	0716	3.1m	1947	3.3m
Galway	--	--	1220	3.7m
Greenock	0656	2.7m	1917	2.9m
Harwich	0612	3.2m	1851	3.1m
Holyhead	0533	4.1m	1817	4.2m
Hull	0019	5.6m	1319	5.4m
Leith	1000	4.2m	2229	4.2m
Liverpool	0604	6.8m	1849	6.8m

Sun & Moon



Sun rises 0641
Sun sets 1905
Moon rises 2354
Moon sets 1655
New Moon 25 Sept

AccuWeather.com
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather ©2022

Lighting up

Belfast	1932 to 0707
Birm'ham	1913 to 0649
Brighton	1906 to 0643
Bristol	1916 to 0654
Carlisle	1918 to 0653
Cork	1939 to 0717
Dublin	1931 to 0707
Glasgow	1925 to 0659
Harlech	1922 to 0659
Inverness	1924 to 0657
London	1905 to 0643
M'chester	1915 to 0651
Newcastle	1914 to 0648
Norwich	1901 to 0637
Penzance	1927 to 0705

Starwatch



Bid farewell to the harvest moon this week as it cruises through Gemini, the twins, for a close encounter with the star Pollux.

Early tomorrow, the moon will be a beautiful waning crescent with 30% of its visible surface illuminated. As the week goes on, and the moon draws closer to the sun, the illuminated percentage will drop and the moon will rise later and later until it disappears into the morning twilight. It will then be reborn a few days later in the evening sky as a new moon.

The chart shows the view north-east at 1am on 20 September. The further west you are, the closer the conjunction will appear.

In Greek mythology, Pollux and his twin half-brother Castor sailed on Jason's quest for the golden fleece. In Chinese astronomy, these stars belong to the North River "mansion", the equivalent of a western zodiacal constellation.

Stuart Clark @DrStuClark

Around the world

Algiers	32	Lisbon	28
Ams'dam	16	Madrid	28
Athens	28	Malaga	27
Auckland	17	Melb'rne	16
B Aires	19	Mexico C	21
Bangkok	31	Miami	31
Barcelona	25	Milan	25
Basra	42	Mombasa	28
Beijing	27	Moscow	11
Berlin	16	Mumbai	30
Bermuda	28	N Orleans	32
Brussels	16	Nairobi	26
Budapest	15	New Delhi	35
C'hagen	15	New York	30
Cairo	32	Oslo	13
Cape Town	17	Paris	18
Chicago	26	Perth	16
Corfu	26	Prague	12
Dakar	28	Reykjavik	13
Dhaka	32	Rio de J	23
Dublin	17	Rome	26
Florence	25	Shanghai	28
Gibraltar	23	Singapore	29
H Kong	33	Stockh'm	10
Harare	30	Strasb'g	17
Helsinki	13	Sydney	22
Istanbul	23	Tel Aviv	29
Jo'burg	27	Tenerife	28
K Lumpur	32	Tokyo	28
K'mandu	27	Toronto	24
Kabul	29	Vancou'r	19
Kingston	32	Vienna	13
Kolkata	31	Warsaw	11
L Angeles	26	Wash'ton	31
Lagos	27	Well'ton	16
Lima	17	Zurich	16

Rugby union**Crisis club
Worcester show
grit in defeat**

Page 38 →

Boxing**Álvarez dominates
faded Golovkin
in Las Vegas**

Page 36 →



Sport



▲ Fulham and Newcastle observe a minute's silence at Craven Cottage after the death of King George VI in 1952

REG SELLER/FOX/GETTY

Missed chance

**Too many sports
were timid after the
Queen's death. They
must learn from this**

Sean Ingle



During the middle ages, flagellants would remove their white robes adorned with a red cross, kneel on the ground, and then vigorously whip themselves in public displays of fervour. Some sports appear to have been taking notes. Since the Queen's death, we have seen the FA stop grassroots football, the Premier League ask for applause at 70 minutes to celebrate the length of her reign, and British Cycling bizarrely tell people not to ride during the state funeral, before performing a rapid U-turn. These are some of the biggest beasts in British sport. And they have looked frit.

Frit because such decisions were not based on logic, public sentiment, or government advice - which stressed that there was no obligation to cancel or postpone events during the period of national mourning - but a nebulous and ill-defined sense of wanting to do "the right thing".

Yet no one was telling the sport to stop. In fact, when I spoke to senior officials on the night of the Queen's death, their expectation was that most of them, including the Premier League, would carry on. Twelve hours later, the fear of getting it wrong had persuaded football, boxing and cycling to pull the plug.

Why? Partly it is due to a timidity and deference towards the royal family, not only in sport but across society, that appear timeless. Perhaps the best explanation for what we have seen over the past 11 days was given by a senior BBC News executive, more than 25 years ago, when asked by the Guardian about plans for the Queen Mother's death. "The view is that

the people you upset by not going over the top about her death would be upset for longer - and with more consequence - than the people you would upset by going over the top about it," he replied.

That, though, has been the blueprint for every major royal funeral since. In one breath, cover your arse. With the next, bow your head. The silent majority be damned.

But there was surely a silent majority for a modest and unshowy response - a minute's silence, along with a few well-chosen words in tribute - before cracking on. The day after the Queen's death, when I asked on Twitter whether sport should continue, over 90% of respondents said yes. While such polls are not always indicative of the public's mood - a sportswriter will tend to have a lot of followers who like sport, after all - the general attitude across social media was that sport should continue.

Instead, football was the first to slam its doors shut, even though its decision meant those kids starved of activity during the pandemic could not play, and those reliant on match-day incomes also found themselves without work at short notice.

One father told me he went for a kickabout with his son and daughter, only to find all the goalposts had been locked together so they couldn't be used. When two teams in the Sheffield & District Fair Play League posted pictures of a friendly they played on the same day, they were accused of "disrespectful and despicable behaviour" by their league chairman for ignoring the grassroots ban. Yet at the very same time matches in local cricket, hockey and rugby clubs carried on.

Football's defence, officially, was that other sports had paused events on the Friday to allow mourning, while it had had no such opportunity. But three sources at a Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport meeting insist that Prince William's role as the FA president was brought up as a factor too. Another consideration, less publicly voiced, was the potential reaction from rightwing media if football messed up.

But football should have possessed more of a backbone. There will always be idiots that follow the game, because there will always be idiots in society. In a hundred years' time, some Celtic fans may still

raise banners critical of the royals. A pocket of Liverpool fans may still boo the national anthem. And the next day some publications will froth and sputter. So it goes.

What made football's decision appear stranger, as the writer Patrick Kidd pointed out, was that in 1952 it was just about the only sport not called off on the death of George VI, with matches continuing, prefaced by the anthem and Abide With Me. It was, said the FA, "a simple and sincere tribute".

Of course there will always be differing interpretations of how a nation should mourn. Yet to these eyes, the England and Wales Cricket Board, European Tour golf and both rugby codes got it right by bringing crowds together that first weekend.

As the Rugby Football Union explained in a statement, which also stressed that the overwhelming majority of supporters wanted to play on: "Rugby, at its heart, is about community and bringing people together, in good times and in sad ... With families and friends congregating, it will help us to unite at this time of national mourning." They, and others, were proved right.

We can only hope those less brave were taking notes. The smarter ones should already be drafting a version of that RFU statement for when King Charles III dies, as well as a sensible plan for how they will react. Abiding by that tired old cliche, keep calm and carry on, is probably not a bad place to start.

The week ahead



Brentford's Ivan Toney could make his England debut this week

Today

- Tennis**
ATP Astana Open
Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan (to Sun)
Amazon Prime
- ATP Open de Moselle**
Metz (to Sun) Amazon Prime
- WTA Pan Pacific Open**
Ariake, Japan (to Sun) Amazon Prime
- ATP San Diego Open**
California (to Sun) Amazon Prime
- Cycling**
UCI Men's Road World Championships
Wollongong, Australia (to Sun)
- UCI Women's Road World Championships**
Wollongong, Australia (to Sun)

Tomorrow

- Football** (7.45pm unless stated)
cinch Scottish League 2
Stranraer v Dumbarston
- Rugby union**
Premiership Cup
Pool 1 Exeter Chiefs v Bath (7.45pm); Pool 2 Sale v Leicester Tigers (7.45pm); Wasps v Newcastle Falcons (7.45pm)
- Cricket** (10.30am unless stated)
First Twenty20 International
Pakistan v England, Karachi (3.30pm) SSC/SSME
- LV= Insurance County Championship** (first day of four)
 - Division One** Essex v Lancashire, Chelmsford; Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Bristol; Hampshire v Kent, Ages Bowl; Somerset v Northamptonshire, Taunton; Surrey v Yorkshire, the Kia Oval
 - Division Two** Durham v Sussex, Rideside; Glamorgan v Derbyshire, Swalec Stadium; Leicestershire v Middlesex, Grace Road; Worcs v Notts, New Road
- Racing**
Beverley Racing UK, Lingfield, Newcastle, Warwick Racing UK

Wednesday 21

- Football** (7.45pm unless stated)
Uefa Nations League
Group B1 Scotland v Ukraine ITV4/Premier Sports 1
- Rugby union**
Premiership Cup
Pool 1 Gloucester v Worcester Warriors (7.45pm)
- Cricket**
Second Royal London Women's One-Day International
England v India, Canterbury (1pm) SSC/SSME
- Rachel Heyhoe Flint Trophy**
Playoff tbc v tbc (10.30am)
- Racing**
Goodwood, Kempton Racing UK, Perth Racing UK, Redcar Racing UK

Thursday 22

- Football** (7.45pm unless stated)
Uefa Nations League
Group A1 Croatia v Denmark Premier Sports 2; France v Austria Premier Extra; Group A4 Belgium v Wales S4C/Premier Sports 1; Poland v Netherlands. Group C1 Lithuania v Faroe Islands; Turkey v Luxembourg. Group C3 Kazakhstan v Belarus (3pm) Premier Sports 1; Slovakia v Azerbaijan. Group D1 Latvia v Moldova (5pm) Premier Sports 1;

The main event

Pakistan v England First T20 International
3.30pm tomorrow, SSC/SSME
England players have donated to flood relief, with Jos Buttler hoping the tour will "raise spirits ... Any part we can play is important."



Football results

Premier League

	Home					Away					GD	Pts	Next three games	
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A			
1 Arsenal	7	3	0	0	8	4	3	0	1	9	3	+10	18	Tottenham (h) 01/10, Liverpool (h) 09/10, Leeds (a) 16/10
2 Man City	7	3	0	0	14	2	2	2	0	9	4	+17	17	Man Utd (h) 02/10, Southampton (h) 08/10, Liverpool (a) 16/10
3 Tottenham	7	4	0	0	13	4	1	2	0	5	3	+11	17	Arsenal (a) 01/10, Brighton (a) 08/10, Everton (h) 15/10
4 Brighton	6	2	1	0	6	2	2	0	1	5	3	+6	13	Liverpool (a) 01/10, Tottenham (h) 08/10, Brentford (a) 14/10
5 Man Utd	6	2	0	1	6	4	2	0	1	2	4	0	12	Man City (a) 02/10, Everton (a) 09/10, Newcastle (h) 16/10
6 Fulham	7	2	1	0	7	5	1	1	2	5	6	+1	11	Newcastle (h) 01/10, West Ham (a) 09/10, Bournemouth (h) 15/10
7 Chelsea	6	2	1	0	6	4	1	0	2	2	5	-1	10	Crystal Palace (a) 01/10, Arsenal (a) 09/10, Man City (h) 16/10
8 Liverpool	6	2	1	0	12	2	0	2	1	3	4	+9	9	Brighton (h) 01/10, Arsenal (a) 09/10, Man City (h) 16/10
9 Brentford	7	2	1	1	10	6	0	2	1	5	6	+3	9	Bournemouth (a) 01/10, Newcastle (a) 08/10, Brentford (h) 14/10
10 Newcastle	7	1	3	0	6	4	0	2	1	2	3	+1	8	Fulham (a) 01/10, Brentford (h) 08/10, Man Utd (a) 16/10
11 Leeds	6	2	1	0	6	2	0	1	2	4	8	0	8	Aston Villa (h) 02/10, Crystal Palace (a) 09/10, Arsenal (h) 16/10
12 Bournemouth	7	1	1	1	2	3	1	1	2	4	16	-13	8	Brentford (h) 01/10, Leicester (h) 08/10, Fulham (a) 15/10
13 Everton	7	1	2	1	2	2	0	2	1	3	4	-1	7	Southampton (a) 01/10, Man Utd (h) 09/10, Tottenham (a) 15/10
14 Southampton	7	1	1	1	4	4	1	0	3	3	7	-4	7	Everton (h) 01/10, Man City (a) 08/10, West Ham (h) 16/10
15 Aston Villa	7	2	1	1	4	3	0	0	3	2	7	-4	7	Leeds (a) 02/10, Nottm Forest (a) 09/10, Leicester (a) 15/10
16 Crystal Palace	6	1	1	1	4	4	0	2	1	3	5	-2	6	Chelsea (h) 01/10, Liverpool (h) 08/10, Leicester (a) 15/10
17 Wolverhampton	7	1	2	1	2	4	0	1	2	1	3	-4	6	West Ham (a) 01/10, Chelsea (a) 08/10, Nottm Forest (h) 15/10
18 West Ham	7	0	1	2	1	5	1	0	3	2	4	-6	4	Wolves (h) 01/10, Fulham (a) 09/10, Southampton (a) 16/10
19 Nottm Forest	7	1	0	3	5	8	0	1	2	1	9	-11	4	Leicester (a) 03/10, Aston Villa (h) 10/10, Wolves (a) 15/10
20 Leicester	7	0	1	2	3	5	0	0	4	7	17	-12	1	N Forest (h) 03/10, Bournemouth (a) 08/10, C Palace (h) 15/10

Europe

BUNDESLIGA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Union Berlin	7	5	2	0	15	4	+11	17
Borussia Dortmund	7	5	0	2	9	7	+2	15
Freiburg	7	4	2	1	10	5	+5	14
Hoffenheim	7	4	1	2	12	7	+5	13
Bayern Munich	7	3	3	1	19	6	+13	12
Borussia M'gladbach	7	3	3	1	10	5	+5	12
Eintracht Frankfurt	7	3	2	2	14	13	+1	11
Mainz	7	3	2	2	7	10	-3	11
Cologne	7	2	4	1	11	8	+3	10
Werder Bremen	7	2	3	2	13	12	+1	9
Augsburg	7	3	0	4	5	10	-5	9
RB Leipzig	7	2	2	3	9	12	-3	8
Hertha Berlin	7	1	3	3	7	9	-2	6
Schalke 04	7	1	3	3	8	14	-6	6
Bayer Leverkusen	7	1	2	4	9	12	-3	5
Stuttgart	7	0	5	2	7	10	-3	5
Wolfsburg	7	1	2	4	5	12	-7	5
VfL Bochum	7	0	1	6	5	19	-14	10
Union Berlin 2	7	0	2	0	15	1	+15	16
Hoffenheim 0	7	0	2	0	10	1	+10	11
Munich 0	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
Borussia 0	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
St. Pauli	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
Osasuna 0	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
Villarreal 1	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
Real Betis 1	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
Almeria 1	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
Espanyol 1	7	0	1	1	10	5	+1	10
Valencia 1	6	3	0	3	10	5	+5	9
Mallorca 1	6	2	2	2	6	7	-1	8
Girona 1	6	2	1	3	7	7	0	7
Rayo Vallecano 1	6	2	1	3	7	8	-1	7
Celta Vigo 1	6	2	1	3	8	13	-5	7
Getafe 1	6	2	1	3	6	12	-6	7
Sevilla 1	6	1	2	3	7	11	-4	5
Almeria 1	6	1	1	4	4	7	-3	4
Espanyol 1	6	1	1	4	4	7	-3	4
Valladolid 1	6	1	1	4	3	11	-8	4
Cádiz 1	6	1	0	5	1	14	-13	3
Elche 1	6	0	1	5	2	16	-14	1
Osasuna 0	6	0	1	5	2	16	-14	1
Villarreal 1	6	0	1	5	2	16	-14	1
Real Betis 1	6	0	1	5	2	16	-14	1
Almeria 1	6	0	1	5	2	16	-14	

Sport In brief

Tennis

Murray bows out with Davis Cup victory

Andy Murray relished playing in front of the Glasgow Davis Cup crowd for what he admitted might be the final time. A dead rubber against the lowly ranked Kazakh Dmitry Popko after Great Britain's disappointing elimination was far from the 35-year-old's most important match in the competition but a near full house at the Emirates Arena cheered him on enthusiastically anyway to a 6-4, 6-3 victory. Murray has won 32 of his 35 singles matches in Davis Cup, most famously all eight he played in leading Britain to the title in 2015, with the matches against the United States and Australia both in Glasgow, along with many others over the last decade and a half.

He said: "I found it difficult at the beginning. It's just hard to know how to play emotionally because you can't fake it. I wanted to win today but, if I lose, it doesn't really matter. It was the fullest it had been all week. I'm glad I was able to play in front of them. Maybe that's the last time I play here or get to play for Britain in front of a crowd like that. If it is the last time playing here, it's been amazing what they've done for our team. The crowd in a lot of our matches has made a big difference. They've been some of the best memories I've had on a tennis court."

Cameron Norrie was disappointing in a 6-4, 6-3 loss to Alexander Bublik but Britain did at least finish with a 2-1 victory in the tie as Joe Salisbury and Neal Skupski defeated Bublik and Aleksandr Nedovyesov on a deciding tie-break in a match delayed for the national one minute of silence. **PA Media**

Golf

MacIntyre holds nerve to beat Fitzpatrick

Scotland's Robert MacIntyre defeated the US Open champion, Matt Fitzpatrick, in a playoff to win his second DP World Tour title at the Italian Open yesterday. MacIntyre made a birdie at the first extra hole at Marco Simone Golf and Country Club, the venue outside Rome for next year's Ryder Cup, after he and Fitzpatrick had finished tied on 14 under par, a shot ahead of France's Victor Perez. Rory McIlroy, who was within a shot of the lead until he hit his tee shot on the 16th into the water, finished fourth on 12 under. **PA Media**



Andy Murray reacts after his Davis Cup victory

Sky Bet Championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Sheff Utd	10	7	2	1	19	5	+14	23
Norwich	10	6	2	2	16	9	+7	20
Reading	10	6	0	4	10	14	-4	18
Burnley	10	4	5	1	17	10	+7	17
Sunderland	10	4	3	3	16	11	+5	15
QPR	10	4	3	3	14	11	+3	15
Blackburn	10	5	0	5	11	13	-2	15
Rotherham	9	3	5	1	12	6	+6	14
Bristol City	10	4	2	4	19	16	+3	14
Watford	10	3	5	2	11	11	0	14
Luton	10	3	4	3	11	10	+1	13
Wigan	9	3	4	2	9	11	-2	13
Millwall	10	4	1	5	11	14	-3	13
Stoke	10	3	3	4	11	11	0	12
Preston North End	10	2	6	2	3	4	-1	12
Swansea	10	3	3	4	10	12	-2	12
Birmingham	10	3	3	4	8	10	-2	12
Cardiff	10	3	2	5	7	11	-4	11
Blackpool	10	3	2	5	10	15	-5	11
Hull	10	3	2	5	11	21	-10	11
West Brom	10	1	7	2	15	14	+1	10
Middlesbrough	10	2	4	4	13	15	-2	10
Huddersfield	9	2	1	6	9	13	-4	7
Coventry	7	0	3	4	7	13	-6	3
Birmingham	(0) 0	Coventry			(0) 0			
16,633								
Burnley	(1) 2	Bristol City			(1) 1			
Benson 4								
Rodriguez 67								
Huddersfield	(1) 1	Cardiff			(0) 0			
Rhodes 8								
19,193								
Luton	(0) 2	Blackburn			(0) 0			
Morris 58								
Burke 67								
Middlesbrough	(0) 0	Rotherham			(0) 0			
22,960								
Millwall	(1) 2	Blackpool			(1) 1			
Grimshaw 14og								
Afobe 63								
11,463								
Norwich	(0) 1	West Brom			(1) 1			
Byram 68								
26,303								
Preston North End	(0) 0	Sheff Utd			(1) 2			
18,412								
McDermott 75								
QPR	(0) 0	Stoke			(0) 0			
14,174								
Swansea	(0) 3	Hull			(0) 0			
Manning 61								
Cuddle 64								
Piroe 85								
Watford	(1) 2	Sunderland			(1) 2			
Davis 34								
O'Nien 62og								
19,767								
Wigan	(0) 0	Reading			(0) 1			
10,113								
LEADING GOALSCORERS								
Conway Bristol City								
5	5	7						
Estupinan Hull								
7	7	7						
Morris Luton								
6	6	6						
Sargent Norwich								
6	6	6						

Other results

Rugby union

THE RUGBY CHAMPIONSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
New Zealand	5	3	0	2	155	114	2	14
South Africa	5	3	0	2	126	98	2	14
Australia	5	2	0	3	128	154	2	10
Argentina	5	2	0	3	122	165	1	9
Argentina 20 South Africa 36								

GALLAGHER PREMIERSHIP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	B	Pts
Sale	2	2	0	0	66	42	2	10
Exeter	2	2	0	0	60	41	1	9
Bristol	2	2	0	0	54	37	1	9
Leicester	2	1	0	1	56	45	2	6
Northampton	2	1	0	1	60	51	2	6
Harlequins	2	1	0	1	67	61	2	6
London Irish	2	1	0	1	67	52	1	5
Gloucester	1	1	0	0	27	21	1	5
Saracens	1	1	0	0	30	27	1	5
Bath	2	0	0	2	49	68	1	1
Wasps	2	0	0	2	29	50	1	1
Newcastle	2	0	0	2	52	76	1	1
Worcester	2	0	0	2	35	81	0	0
Worcester 21 Exeter 36; Bath 20 Sale 37; Harlequins 27 Saracens 30; Leicester 36 Newcastle 21; Northampton 38 London Irish 22; Wasps 8 Bristol 23								

UNITED CHAMPIONSHIP

Edinburgh 44 Dragons 6; Lions 15 Blue Bulls 31; Scarlets 23 Ospreys 23; Ulster 36 Connacht 10; Zebre 29 Leinster 33; Cardiff Rugby 20 Munster 13

Rugby league

BETFRED SUPER LEAGUE

Grand semi-final St Helens 19 Salford 12

BETFRED CHAMPIONSHIP

Playoffs Barrow 8 Batley 18; Halifax 24 York City 26

BETFRED WOMEN'S SUPER LEAGUE

Grand final York City 4 Leeds 12

Shield final Warrington 34 Featherstone 6

Sky Bet League One

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Ipswich	9	6	3	0	18	6	+12	21
Portsmouth	9	6	3	0	19	8	+11	21
Plymouth	9	6	1	2	16	11	+5	19
Sheff Wed	9	5	2	2	17	9	+8	17
Bolton	9	5	2	2	11	6	+	

▼ Saúl Álvarez catches Gennady Golovkin during his unanimous win
FREDERIC J BROWN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES



Boxing

Álvarez and time catch up with brave Golovkin

The 40-year-old never looked like repeating his 2017 victory, in delayed second rematch

Donald McRae
Las Vegas

Saúl "Canelo" Alvarez swept aside the troubles of his difficult year, and a festering rivalry, when he defeated a faded Gennady Golovkin in a unanimous victory on points in their third fight in Las Vegas on Saturday night. Álvarez, the undisputed world super-middleweight champion, was a comprehensive winner and the only surprise was that, for once, the judges were sympathetic to Golovkin. Two scorecards of 115-113 were strange, with the third official's verdict of 116-112 in favour of Álvarez a marginally more accurate reflection.

Álvarez was too young, too strong and too driven for Golovkin - a once great champion who is now a 40-year-old in the unforgiving ring. Beneath the glaring lights and the percussive impact of Alvarez's power punching Golovkin cut a subdued figure from the outset of a one-sided contest. He was unable to impose himself and, especially in the first seven rounds, he looked a disconsolate version of the previously formidable middleweight champion.

In contrast Álvarez set about his work with fire and force. He was aggressive, if occasionally wild, and he pushed back Golovkin repeatedly. By the end of round five the older man looked lonely on his stool in the corner, his face reddened and a swelling forming beneath his right eye.

Álvarez continued to land the meaningful punches and it looked

as if Golovkin would need to rely on all his considerable bravery to survive a slow and methodical beating. But, to his credit, he dug deep within himself and there were fleeting bursts of effective work from him. Alvarez was dragged into a real fight in the ninth and 10th rounds when, finally, Golovkin let his hands fly. He fought with real purpose and resolve for these six minutes because, unlike the hapless judges, he realised he required something special to try to change the pattern of the bout.

Golovkin landed some stinging blows, even backing Alvarez up against the ropes. But in those tightly contested exchanges Alvarez still fired volleys of punches in return. Both rounds could be awarded justifiably to Golovkin but they were his only real success of the night.

He tried to build on that momentum but, in the last stretch of the fight, Alvarez cruised comfortably home. Despite the caveats of Golovkin's age and disappointing performance, he can claim this victory as one of his most satisfying in a pro career which began when he was just 15 in 2005.

Alvarez has a troubled history at the T-Mobile Arena, which was, again, electrified by his raucous Mexican fans. It was here, in May, that he lost for only the second time, when he was outboxed by Dmitry Bivol. Alvarez had moved up in weight to challenge Bivol for his light-heavyweight world title and, while the clear context remained that he was much the smaller man, the aura of the great Mexican was badly dented. Bivol exposed and frustrated him.

Of course Golovkin had already undermined the Canelo hype-machine, which was just beginning to roll when he fought Alvarez at the

T-Mobile for the first time five years ago this week. Golovkin won that bout in the eyes of most sensible observers but the Las Vegas judges scored it as a dammingly controversial draw. Exactly a year later, in September 2018, they returned to the very same ring and Alvarez shaded a close decision in less contentious fashion. It was plain that, then, he and Golovkin were two champions of almost equal merit.

In the ensuing four years Alvarez rose seamlessly to the status of a feted boxing master who also became the cash cow of this greedy old business. He proved himself to be an outstanding technician, who became as interesting outside the ring as he was between the ropes. But the shadow of Golovkin still hung over him. It seemed typical of boxing that a third fight between them should be delayed for years while Golovkin, who comes from Kazakhstan and is nowhere near as marketable as Canelo, laboured in comparative obscurity.

Golovkin and his supporters believed that Alvarez, who is a smart businessman as well as a ruthless boxer, was simply waiting for his greatest rival to reach middle age before they met again. Alvarez, at 32, is eight years younger than Golovkin and the difference in age was obvious on a painful night for the older man.

"You lose one punch, you lose the fight," admitted Golovkin. "Look at his face, look at my face. We're like this because it was a high-level fight because we trained well and we did a very good quality fight. This fight was more tactical, like chess. Today Canelo was better."

The only real hurt Alvarez suffered was to his left hand which, he revealed after the fight, will require surgery. But, next May, he will presumably turn to the far more dangerous ordeal of trying to overcome Bivol - who is neither old nor worn out by the ring.

However, Alvarez will want to ensure he has recovered fully from his encounter with Golovkin before finalising a second fight with Bivol.

Cycling

Foss on top of the world after leaving favourites behind

Kieran Pender
Wollongong

The smile on his face said it all. Sitting in the hot seat on the opening day of the 2022 Road World Championships in Wollongong, Australia, Tobias Foss watched on as the final rider on course crossed the finish line. Foss blinked, shook his head and laughed in disbelief. He slapped his face repeatedly, as if to make sure this was no dream. Then the Norwegian let out a guttural roar. A new men's world time trial champion had been crowned - and an unlikely one at that.

After recording the fastest time the 25-year-old had watched on as some of the world's best time-trialists failed to better his effort. The final four riders to take on the technical 34.2km course were a roll-call of the best against the clock: the two-times European time-trial champion Stefan Küng; the two-times Tour de France winner Tadej Pogacar; the Vuelta a España winner, Remco Evenepoel; and the defending world time-trial champion, Filippo Ganna.

These were the riders expected to triumph in Wollongong, not Foss. The Norwegian has a reasonable track record: he won the Tour de l'Avenir in 2019, a race known for anointing future stars, won the road race and time-trial titles at last year's Norwegian championships and finished ninth at the 2021 Giro d'Italia. But against Ganna and co Foss had not even been considered among the pre-race favourites.

Yet one by one the final four failed to better the Team Jumbo-Visma rider's 40min 02sec - averaging a rapid 51.3km per hour. Küng came closest, the Swiss only 2.9sec away, to take the silver medal. Belgium's Evenepoel continued his recent Vuelta form to finish third, nine seconds back. But when Ganna crossed the line - a two-time world champion in

the discipline, a Tokyo gold medalist on the track, a cycling star soon to take on the hour record - the Italian was, remarkably, nearly a minute back.

Foss became the first Norwegian to win the world time trial title. He joins Thor Hushovd, winner of the road race at the 2010 world championships (also held in Australia), and Monica Valvik, who won the women's road race in 1994, as the only Norwegians to have worn the rainbow jersey.

"I guess we really like Australia," he said with laugh. "It was unexpected - I knew my shape were strong, coming in from Canada, putting in some nice work, [and] training has gone well in the past two months. I was really hoping to go deep today. Good preparation, good execution, and in the end there was a gold. That's unreal."

There was heartbreak for Britain's Ethan Hayter, the two-times track world champion and Olympic silver medallist who recently switched to the road with Ineos Grenadiers. The 24-year-old looked to be well on course for a medal but suffered a mechanical incident with his chainring at halfway. He battled back for fourth but the time loss ended his medal hopes. "Slightly disappointed but fourth place is still pretty good," he said.

In the women's race Ellen van Dijk defended her time trial crown. Australia's Grace Brown had led after starting in the opening wave of riders and setting a blistering pace over a technical, undulating 34.2-kilometre course. Brown's finishing time, just under 45 minutes, was unmatched until the very end, when Van Dijk was forced to go out fast to match Brown's earlier pace and, despite leading at the first and second intermediate time check, faded in the last kilometres.

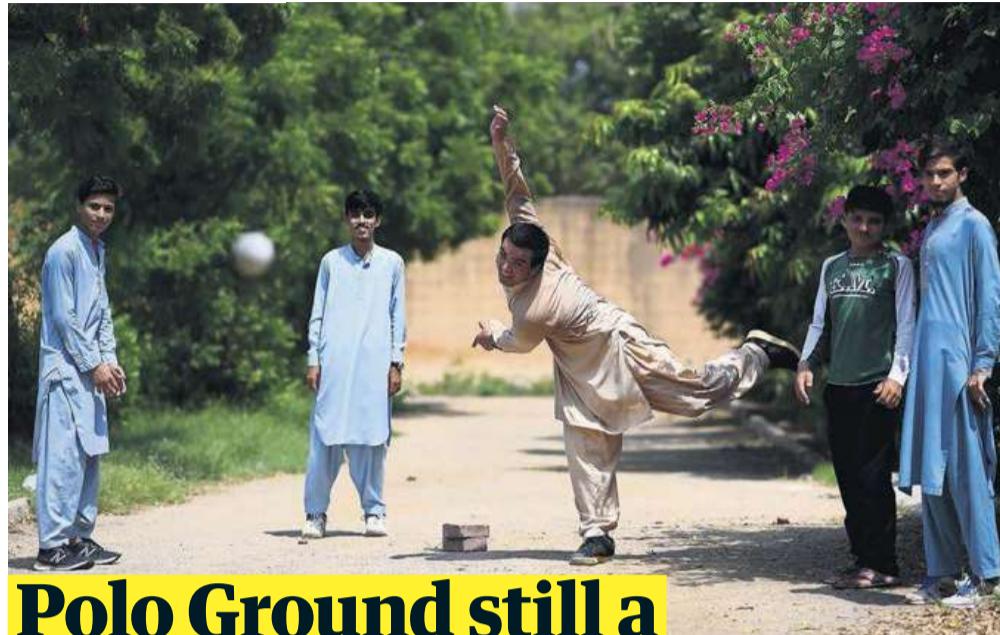
In the end only 12 seconds separated the Dutchwoman from her challenger but it was enough for Van Dijk to keep the rainbow jersey and relegate Brown to silver. The Swiss rider Marlen Reusser was third, adding bronze to her silver medal from last year's Olympics.

Van Dijk is now the second most successful woman of all-time in the discipline, with three world titles, one silver and two bronze medals, behind only France's Jeannie Longo. "I kind of said goodbye to my jersey yesterday - I put it at the bottom of my bag and thought: 'It was a great year, I really enjoyed it,'" Van Dijk said. "I felt happy and I felt that anything to come today would be a bonus. That was a great bonus."



▲ Norway's Tobias Foss reacts after his unlikely victory in Wollongong
SIMON WILKINSON/SWPPIX.COM/SHUTTERSTOCK

▼ Everyone here wants to bowl fast and plenty are
ALEX DAVIDSON/GETTY IMAGES



Polo Ground still a place of dreams for Karachi's hopefults

Players from all over Pakistan still come to play at the park where Hanif Mohammad and his brothers flourished

Andy Bull
Karachi

Late Sunday morning, and there is not a scrap of spare ground to be found at Polo Ground in downtown Karachi. Every last patch of its 20 acres of path and grass is taken up with games of tape-ball cricket. There must be 30, 40, 50 overlapping matches – enough, anyway, that it is impossible to count the hundreds of players who are scattered all around, the fielders mixing with each so that, if the man at mid-wicket in one game turned on the spot, he could play cover in another, or fine leg for a third. Outside India, and the Oval Maidan in Mumbai, there is not a sight in cricket quite like it.

The place is officially known as the Gulshan-e-Jinnah but no one will be able to give you directions if you call it that. Polo Ground, on the other hand, everyone knows. Everyone in Karachi cricket has played here over the years. Back in the late 1940s and early 1950s it was where Hanif Mohammad and his four brothers learned the game. They had only just moved to the city after partition. “One could see hundreds of people, mostly youngsters, playing cricket there every day,” Hanif wrote in his autobiography. “Whoever came first would choose his own spot and pitch his stumps for practice or for a match. Even the maulvis would join in.”

His younger brother Mushtaq told Peter Osborne how “when we were still small, my youngest cousin Iqbal and my older cousin Nisar and I would set out every Sunday with just two annas each

in our pockets, and we headed to Polo Ground in the centre of the city where many teams used to be playing matches with intermingled field placings”. He has still not forgiven his older brothers for making him the 12th man. Soon enough Mushtaq and his brother both graduated to the old Gymkhana ground over next door’s wall, where Pakistan played some of their earliest games against MCC and other teams.

In the 1960s the government used Polo Ground for military parades and after that it had a reputation as a spot where young lovers would come to meet each other. That stopped, the story goes, when a TV crew came and made a show in which the presenter went around asking the couples whether they had told their parents they were visiting the park together. The cricketers, though, have always been here. For years players have come from all over the country to play in this park in Karachi as they try to find their way in the game. These days they dream of making it much further than the Gymkhana, to the National Stadium, further out of town.

There is still a man on the gate collecting rupees from the lads who want to park their motorbikes inside, and a vendor wandering around between the games inside, carrying high piles of pomegranate seeds on platters hanging from a yoke over his shoulders.

Even he does not try to pick his way through the middle of the park. Play does not stop for strollers, and besides there are no free paths left. The pavements make the best wickets. The latecomers have to

The balls fly all over until they plug in the long grass, where they are fetched by unsighted fielders

play in the grass out by the fences, where, if they are unlucky, the ball will slip through the railings and run into the road outside.

The littlest kids, five and six, are there too, out on the mud boundary that runs around the park. Inside that it is all more serious. There is still a lot of laughter but it is the bragging kind. Almost everyone who bowls here wants to be fast, and plenty really are, and almost everyone who bats wants to hit sixes, and most do. So the balls fly all over, till they plug in the long grass, where they are fetched by the unsighted fielders running around behind trees and bushes and pavilions trying to follow the bowler’s cries of “catch”. Some even have to fetch the ball from out of the muddy pond in the middle.

Some players wear shalwar kameez, some are in jeans and tees, but plenty are in lurid cricket kit, bright strips and brilliant slashes, some of them from Pakistan Super League, one even in an England top, but many of the rest are from local teams, the Rising Stars, the Young Fighters.

They use teetering piles of bricks as wickets, or sets of soldered metal stumps, and keep bags of replacement balls ready. The ground is littered with chewed-up scraps of red tape, offcuts from where it has been wound around the tennis balls to improve the swing and bounce. It seems there is always one guy who has the knack of doing it, and the players will toss him old ones to repair with the stuff he keeps in his bag.

The sorry part of it all is that it is so close to England’s team hotel, hardly five minutes walk along the way, but the players themselves get to see it only through the tinted windows of their coach as they pass by on the way to training. There is palpable frustration among some of them, especially the ones who have been here before to play in the PSL, that the security cordon is so tight that they cannot even walk to the park. They may not get to see it but they can be sure everyone playing here will be watching them tomorrow and, likely as not, somewhere among them will be the bowler they will be facing when they come back here in a few years.

First Royal London ODI

Mandhana and Kaur punish England's rustiness

Raf Nicholson
1st Central County Ground

Jhulan Goswami’s farewell tour started with a flourish as the 39-year-old helped India restrict England to 227 for seven in the first one-day international at Hove, despite an unbeaten maiden ODI half-century from Alice Davidson-Richards.

India then rolicked to their target in 44.2 overs with seven wickets in hand, thanks to fifties from Yastika Bhatia, Harmanpreet Kaur and Smriti Mandhana - the latter falling just nine runs short of a century.

“In practice, we had spoken about trying to be more on the front foot,” Mandhana said. “We learned a few things from England’s mistakes - a few of them got out on the back foot. I am a back-foot player, but I was trying to tell myself to be on the front foot.

“It’s all about the mindset when you go out to bat - I have to keep telling myself not to get carried away.”

Curiously, England chose to omit the two seamers who had been most effective in the T20 leg of the series - Lauren Bell and Freya Davies - and then failed to bring Sophie Ecclestone, their premier bowler, into the attack until the 17th over, when the match was already half-won.

The result hands India first blood in the new ICC Women’s Championship cycle, with the win worth two points in the race towards automatic qualification for the 2025 World Cup.

In a five-over opening spell, Goswami sent down two maidens and spoiled Tammy Beaumont’s first outing for England since she was controversially omitted from their Commonwealth Games squad in July, trapping her lbw for seven with a ball which seamed in and would have gone on to hit leg stump.

“A series win in England would be something which we all would try to give to her as much as we can, because she’s been an amazing, amazing player for us,” Mandhana said.

At the other end, Meghna Singh surprised Emma Lamb with a bouncer which took the top edge of her bat and sailed through to the keeper, leaving England 21 for two in the ninth.

From there England lost regular wickets, eventually finding themselves 128 for six.

After a break for the Commonwealth Games, the Hundred, and the T20 leg of this India tour, and with few opportunities to rejoin their regional teams in the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy, it was a wobbly display which showcased England’s rustiness in 50-over cricket.

Some naivety from Alice Capsey,

on ODI debut, could perhaps be excused - trying to smash it through midwicket, she fell to a brilliant one-handed catch by Harmanpreet.

But Sophia Dunkley, who earned two reprieves via DRS playing across the line to Rajeshwari Gayakwad, limply played Harleen Deol into the hands of cover in the 25th, underlining her weakness against spin.

Two overs later, Amy Jones was bowled by one that kept low from Gayakwad.

England missed the solidity of Heather Knight and Nat Sciver; but Davidson-Richards was the next best thing, allowing her team to pick up the pace in the final 20 overs via partnerships with Danni Wyatt (43 off 50), Ecclestone (31 off 33) and Charlie Dean (24 not out off 21).

England’s resistance was helped by a costly error from Deepti Sharma, who put Ecclestone down on nought off her own bowling; the off-spinner did manage to trap her lbw eventually.

Davidson-Richards eventually brought up her half-century in the final over of the innings, with a four slammed through square leg.

“It’s a bit bittersweet,” she said. “I’m really happy to get the 50 and get the girls up to a score, but fundamentally we didn’t get enough runs and then we didn’t bowl well enough to defend that sort of total.”

Shafali Verma was caught at midwicket in Kate Cross’s first over - Dean pulling off a diving stunner. But by the time the seamer struck again - Mandhana top-edging to mid-on in the 37th - her silky stroke play had reduced the target to just 30 runs.

Kaur did the rest, smashing runs through the leg-side before finally slog-sweeping Davidson-Richards over deep midwicket to seal the win with a maximum.



▲ Meghna Singh is congratulated after dismissing Emma Lamb

Scoreboard

Hove India beat England by seven wickets	
England	
EL Lamb c Bhatia b Singh.....	12
TT Beaumont lbw b Goswami	7
SIR Dunkley c Sharma b Deol.....	29
A Capsey c Kaur b Rana.....	19
DN Wyatt b Sharma.....	43
AE Jones b Gayakwad.....	3
AN Davidson-Richards not out	50
S Ecclestone lbw b Sharma.....	31
CE Dean not out	24
Extras (b2, w5, nb2, pens, 0).....	9
Total (for 7, 50 overs)	227
Fall 20, 21, 64, 88, 94, 128, 178.	
Did not bat KL Cross, IECM Wong.	
Bowling Goswami-10-2-20-1; Singh-8-0-42-2;	
Gayakwad-10-0-40-1; Vastrakar-2-0-20-0; Rana-6-0-	
45-1; Sharma-10-1-33-2; Deol-4-0-25-1.	
India	
SS Mandhana c Davidson-Richards b Cross.....	91
S Verma c Dean b Cross.....	1
YH Bhatia b Dean	50
H Kaur not out	74
H Deol not out	6
Extras (lb3, w7, pens, 0).....	10
Total (for 3, 44.2 overs)	232
Fall 3, 99, 198.	
Did not bat DB Sharma, S Rana, P Vastrakar,	
RS Gayakwad, M Singh, JN Goswami.	
Bowling Wong-5-0-35-0; Cross-10-1-43-2;	
Davidson-Richards-7-2-0-48-0; Dean-10-0-45-1;	
Ecclestone-9-0-42-0; Lamb-3-0-16-0.	
India won the toss and decided to field	

Sport
Rugby union Gallagher Premiership



Visitors make great start

Joe Simmonds touches down to score Exeter's first try in the second minute
PHIL MINGO/PPAUK/SHUTTERSTOCK

Worcester fans rally round crisis club but Exeter prove too strong

Worcester 21

Exeter 36

Robert Kitson
Sixways Stadium

In the mellow afternoon Worcestershire sunshine they did their best to keep the faith. Yes, the Warriors had just been beaten by an Exeter team who have now started the season with two successive wins. Yes, the club is up to its eyebrows in debt. But as they applauded and cheered their team's resolve in adversity at the final whistle, even Worcester's most loyal supporters could feel time fast running out.

Tomorrow is looking like D-day, with the club currently not even in a position to pay the £45 a head registration fee to cover the loan players needed to fulfil Wednesday's Premiership Cup fixture against Gloucester. After that? For all the swirling talk of an imminent deal being signed which would keep the club going and not involve administration, these remain the most unsettling of days.

It was summed up when, after 65 minutes, there was a massed round of applause to respect those staff

who have still had only 65% of their August wages. It was only through the admirable willingness of unpaid staff to volunteer their services for free that this fixture went ahead. But as the Worcester director of rugby, Steve Diamond, bluntly put it: "I'm thinking they should have clapped at zero minutes for those who haven't had any money."

What a sad mess it all is. At least local contractors emptied the over-flowing bins to satisfy health and safety requirements. And 4,999 spectators, the maximum number permitted, made more noise than anyone had a right to expect in the circumstances. One learns more about people in adversity and the strength of community spirit locally in recent days has been remarkable.

Before kick-off three long-time Warriors fans in fancy dress certainly did their best to sound upbeat. "I'm a Worcester fan, we've always had desperately wishful thinking," said Henry Appleby, flanked by his father, Jim, and their friend Adam. "There was no chance us missing this game today. It was more important than ever to give our ticket money."

Even the income raised from this fixture, though, does not guarantee that everyone will be able to return for the next home fixture against Newcastle on Saturday. Worcester

remain a club floundering with their bank accounts frozen and not even enough money to pay the wifi bill.

To wander through the empty bars and food areas in the West Stand, normally full of matchday anticipation and good cheer, was even more dispiriting than in the darkest Covid times. When staff members with years of experience in top-level sport roll their eyes and say they have not known an emotional rollercoaster quite like it, one can well believe them.

There are specific issues relating to aspects of Worcester's recent stewardship but the bigger picture it also paints for the league is not a pretty one. The players, the television cameras and the ever-loyal fans can put a temporary gloss on the situation but it is a terrible look image-wise. As Diamond also made clear, the current state of limbo cannot continue beyond the next day or two.

Given all this, the players' resolve was commendable. With the England head coach, Eddie Jones, looking on, the Warriors never lacked commitment and asked enough attacking questions to earn three tries, scored by the wing Alex Hearle, scrum-half Gareth Simpson and centre Ollie Lawrence.

Lawrence's 64th-minute score from a cutelineout move was a beauty

and dragged the score back to 29-21, with a sense of belief starting to build in the stands. Could Worcester possibly stage an unlikely comeback? The answer was no, with a pumped-up Jack Maunder darting over for Exeter's fifth try with eight minutes remaining, but a shade more home discipline and composure might have made the final outcome closer still.

The good news for Exeter, whose other tries came from the man of the match Richard Capstick (2), Joe Simmonds and Olly Woodburn, is that Henry Slade, Stuart Hogg, Jacques Vermeulen and even Sam Simmonds could all be back in contention to feature against Harlequins at Sandy Park on Sunday.

Worcester's immediate concerns are more stark. "We still don't know what's going on and the uncertainty is what gets you mentally," said the captain, Francois Venter. "It's been mentally tough with a lot going on off the pitch but hopefully it's going to get sorted out. You can see what it means to the Warriors family for us to be here. It will be a shame if that was our last game." The entire English game will be the poorer if the Warriors do end up fading into the sunset.

Worcester
Shilcock; Humphreys (Heward 58), Lawrence, Venter, Hearle; Williams (Searle 56), Simpson (Chudley 74); Morozov (Sutherland 20), Langdon (Faiva 56), McCallum (Tyack 61), Batley, A Kitchener (G Kitchener 64), Lee-Warner, Neild, Dodd. (Kvesic 56)
Tries Hearle, Simpson, Lawrence **Con** Williams 2, Searle **Sin-bin** McCallum
Referee Matthew Carley **Attendance** 4,999

Exeter
J Simmonds; Nowell (Cordero 79), O'Loughlin, Whitten (Kata h/t), Woodburn; Skinner, Townsend (J Maunder 53); Hepburn (Kenny 64), Yeandle (Innard 56), Street (Shickerling 29), Dunne (Van Heerden 53), Gray, Kirsten (Ewers 46), Tshunza, Capstick **Tries** J Simmonds, Capstick 2, Woodburn, J Maunder.
Cons J Simmonds 4, **Pen** J Simmonds
Attendance 4,999

Women's rugby league

Beevers gives Leeds second title to dash Knights' hopes

York

4

Leeds

12

Aaron Bower

Totally Wicked Stadium

Leeds Rhinos survived an enthralling Grand Final against York City Knights to become the first two-time champions of the Women's Super League. Two tries from the full-back Caitlin Beevers were ultimately enough to prevent the Knights, who finished the season top of the table, from becoming the fifth different winner of the WSL in its five-year history.

Instead it is Leeds, the 2019 champions, who secured their second title and kept alive the club's hopes of a clean sweep of all three Super League titles. Their wheelchair side face Halifax in that competition's Grand Final next month, while the Rhinos' men's side face St Helens at Old Trafford on Saturday in the men's finale.

York have enjoyed a breakthrough season in the WSL, finishing top for the first time. But they were ultimately outdone here by a composed and measured display from Leeds, with the game a fantastic advert for the growth women's rugby league has enjoyed in recent years.

Rhinos took the lead after seven minutes, when Courtney Winfield-Hill's clever pass crafted the space for the outstanding Beevers to cross from close range. Leeds enjoyed plenty of possession throughout the first half, but some spirited defensive efforts from York kept the Rhinos' advantage to six points at the break, after Winfield-Hill converted Beevers' first try of the afternoon.

Beevers was outstanding in defence as well as attack. The 20-year-old's second try came in the early stages of the second half, with a fine piece of individual footwork as she bamboozled the York defence.

York replied almost immediately with a superb solo effort from Sinead Peach, who pierced the Rhinos' defence from 40 metres out. But any notion of a grand comeback from the Knights was halted with the Rhinos reasserting control. York had their chances in the final 10 minutes to set up a grandstand finish but the Rhinos held firm time and time again.



▲ Leeds' Caitlin Beevers celebrates after scoring the first of her two tries

Football

Vinícius and Real hit back after racist abuse

Atlético Madrid

Hermoso 83

1

entire buildup to this game, becoming unavoidable in the media. The football agent Pedro Bravo, a guest on a Spanish TV show Chiringuito, where hammed-up arguments are a staple, referred to Vinícius "monkeying around", and invited him to leave the dancing to the "Sambadrome". He subsequently apologised.

As the clip went viral, so the support for Vinícius rolled in: from Neymar, Dani Alves and even Pelé. Vinícius gave a statement on the eve of the match. "They say that happiness annoys people," he said. "Well, the happiness of a victorious black Brazilian in Europe, much more so. Weeks ago now, they started to criminalise me for dancing." Dance, he said, is not just his but belongs to many players, including Atlético's Antoine Griezmann, to funk and samba artists, to reggaeton and black Americans, and "celebrate the cultural diversity of the world" - and he was not going to stop. "Accept it, respect me, I'm not going to stop," he said.

Real Madrid released a statement in defence of their player and against racism. In Carlo Ancelotti's pre-match press conference, more than half of the questions directed at him were about Vinícius. "A lot has been said about provocation; racism is another subject which is much more important," he said. "We haven't talked about racism in the dressing room because the player has responded well in his statement and that's it."

Neymar tweeted "Dance, Vini" and the next day asked: "Am I the only one who woke up wanting Vinícius to score tomorrow?" In the end he didn't, but he did dance. Atlético flew out of the blocks but Real Madrid rode that initial storm. Felipe had one header on to the roof of the net, Yannick Carrasco hit the side of it, and João Félix had a shot blocked. Griezmann, surprisingly included as a starter despite Atlético's attempts to avoid triggering an obligatory purchase clause from Barcelona by not playing him, saw a shot saved by Thibaut Courtois.

But then Rodrygo scored a wonderful goal, turning a clever volley into the net. They had not finished either: a sharp one-two between Luka Modric and Vinícius sent the Brazilian racing away. He ran into the area and hit the post, the ball running loose for Valverde, steaming in, to finish. Madrid's players danced once more. There was a long way to go but it felt as good as over until a late Mario Hermoso goal - the substitute was sent off in stoppage time - set up an unexpectedly tense finish.

A debate was stirred up about him which seemed to overtake the

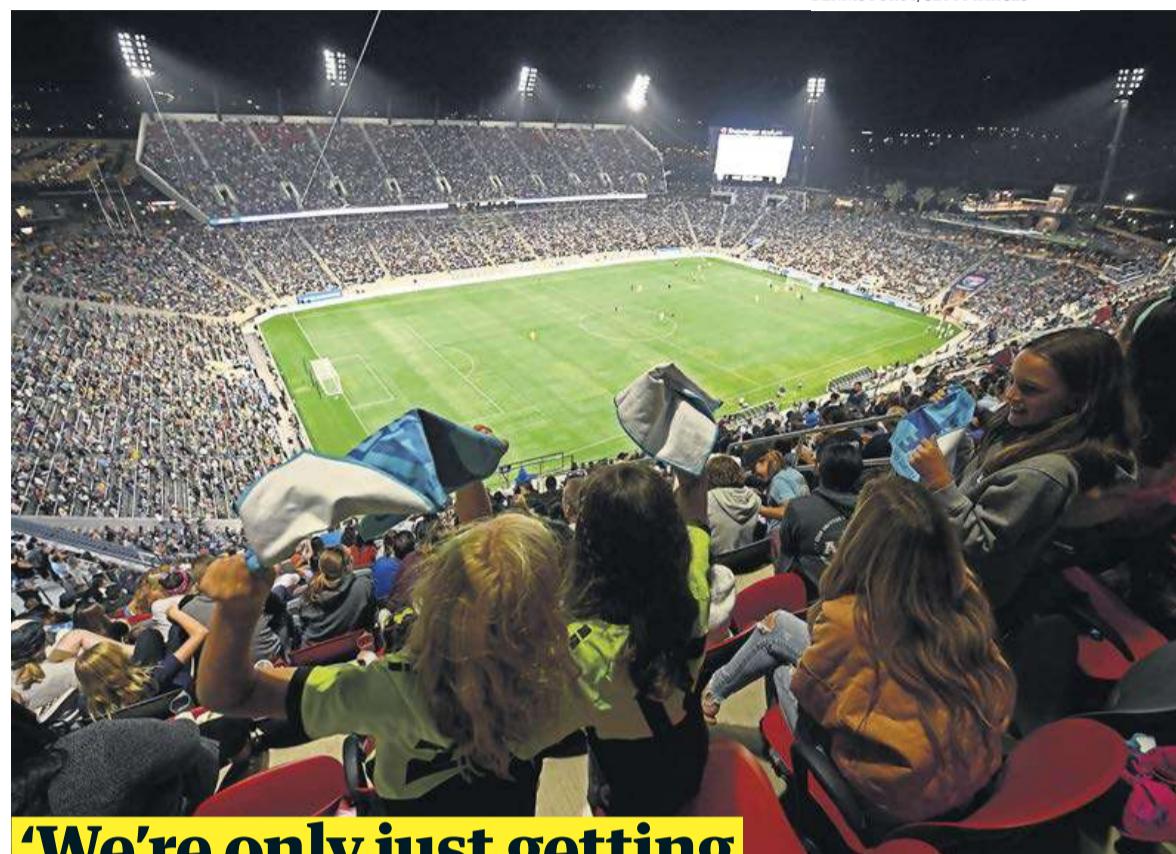


▲ Marcos Llorente (left) and Real's Vinícius Júnior tussle for the ball

Atlético Madrid
5-3-2
Oblak; Llorente, Witsel, Felipe, Reimundo, Carrasco (Hermoso 72); De Paul (Álvarez 62), Kondogbia (Saúl 81), Koke (Correa 73); João Félix (Cunha 62), Griezmann

Real Madrid
4-3-3
Courtois; Carvajal, Militao, Alaba, Mendy (Rüdiger 75); Modric (Camavinga 82), Tchouameni, Kroos (Asensio 86); Valverde, Rodrygo (Ceballos 86), Vinícius Júnior

Referee: Jose Montero Attendance: 66,861



'We're only just getting started': San Diego smash crowd record

As 32,000 fans watch the Wave beat Angel City at their new home, hopes are high that the best is yet to come

Andrew Keatts
San Diego

San Diego Wave settled into Snapdragon Stadium by setting a National Women's Soccer League attendance record on Saturday night as more than 32,000 fans watched a 1-0 win over Angel City.

The record-breaking crowd is part of a trend in 2022. Barcelona twice broke the worldwide mark for a women's match this year, most recently with 91,648 in April.

The Wave crowd, meanwhile, topped the 25,000 ticket-holders who attended a Portland Thorns game in 2019 to set the NWSL record as they watched the first-year club return to the top of the league table.

It was 30 minutes until the crowd, electric from the first whistle, were rewarded when 17-year-old Jaedyn Shaw scored the first goal in Snapdragon Stadium history with a header from Sofia Jakobsson's pass.

The Wave goalkeeper, Kailen Sheridan, kept out Angel City's best opportunity in the 71st minute, diving to her right to save a penalty then snuffing out a rebound opportunity. Angel City never threatened again and the game ended 1-0.

Before moving into Snapdragon Stadium – constructed by San Diego State University, primarily for the use of its football team – the

Wave's home for their inaugural season had been nearby Torero Stadium, with a capacity of 6,000.

Jessica Berman, the NWSL commissioner, said: "People will value our league the way we value ourselves. If you play in small stadiums, it looks like we're not a real professional league, and it will be hard to command the kind of respect and credibility that we want."

"Jill Ellis called me at the beginning of the summer and said: 'We are going to sell it out.'" Ellis, the club's president who won World Cups in 2015 and 2019 as the coach of the US women's national team, said setting the record made a statement. "We want to make a big splash," she said. "We're just getting started. A realistic goal is to grow from this and have a crowd that's competitive with the other top teams week in and week out."

Dragon Stadium was still under construction in May, when the Wave started their inaugural season, leaving the team to begin in the smaller Torero Stadium. Splitting the season between two stadiums also meant they could not sell season tickets this year.

That meant the team needed to push single-game tickets to their new stadium debut with a purpose, an effort Ellis hopes will pay off with season tickets for next year.

I knew that with the right team, right stadium and right timing it would come together'

She said she is expecting the team to attract around 15,000 to 20,000 a night regularly next year, comparable to Angel City and the Thorns.

For 39-year-old Chelsea Klaseus the Wave's party had been a long time coming. When she was 16 years old her parents took her to see the United States in their semi-final match of the 1999 World Cup against Brazil. When the World Cup went to Canada in 2015, she went to a game in Vancouver with her parents and brother. Four years later the family caught three games together in France. Next year they are heading to Australia to do it again.

But first they were part of the record crowd on Saturday night – though with her brother, a Los Angeles resident, wearing an Angel City scarf.

Before the NWSL awarded San Diego the Wave, Klaseus had to settle for the handful of times the women's national team played at Qualcomm Stadium, all well attended, before it was demolished to make way for the smaller Snapdragon Stadium when the San Diego Chargers relocated to Los Angeles.

"I always just knew that, with the right team, the right stadium, and the right timing, it was going to come together with the NWSL in San Diego," she said.

The Wave's big night came when the team did not even have the undivided attention of the region's football community: just five miles away the San Diego Loyal of the United Soccer League played in the Wave's old home at Torero Stadium.

The triumphant evening, however, also came after an auspicious start for Snapdragon Stadium. SDSU's first game at the stadium was marred by record heat in the area, combined with a lack of shade in the seating area, that led to about 200 heat-related medical requests and more than a dozen people taken to hospital.

▼ A raucous crowd watched San Diego Wave beat Angel City
DENNIS POROY/GETTY IMAGES

Stengel spot-on as Chelsea pay penalty at Liverpool

Marcus Christenson

Liverpool came from behind to stun the WSL champions Chelsea on the opening weekend of the season and inflict a first league defeat on Emma Hayes' team in 2022.

Katie Stengel scored two penalties for the promoted side in the second half after Fran Kirby had given the visitors an early lead, also from the spot. Sam Kerr had a seemingly good goal ruled out for offside but Chelsea could have no complaints about the result.

Matt Beard, the Liverpool manager, said: "I think we deserved it, with the tactical changes we made at half-time. This was a fortress for us last season and we made it difficult for Chelsea today. We knew we could hurt them on the counter-attack."

The game was played in front of a record crowd of 3,006 and next up for Liverpool is Everton at Anfield. Beard said: "We are looking forward to it, of course. It is going to be a great occasion. But we have to make sure we play the game, not the occasion."

Hayes said: "I thought going forward we weren't good enough



▲ Liverpool's Katie Stengel netted two penalties in the second half

and the players are disappointed. They [Liverpool] play a 5-4-1 and don't come out and you have to be patient to play against that.

"It wasn't like they had multiple chances but, going forward, we wouldn't have hit a barn door today. We have to reflect, watch it back and go again."

Stunning goals from Ashleigh Neville and Drew Spence gave Tottenham a well-deserved 2-1 win at Leicester. Neville opened the scoring in the 35th minute with

a swerving effort from almost 40 yards, with Spence doubling the lead with a brilliant low drive in first-half stoppage time.

Spence's own goal just before the hour mark gave Leicester hope but the home side rarely threatened to find an equaliser at the King Power Stadium.

Everton lost 1-0 at West Ham, stretching their winless run in the WSL to eight matches after a forgettable end to the 2021-22 campaign. It was the first league game for the club's new manager, Brian Sørensen, but he was unable to inspire an immediate turnaround in fortunes for his team.

Lisa Evans scored the only goal of the game on the stroke of half-time to give the Hammers' new manager, Paul Konchesky, a winning start. The Everton forward Katja Snoeijis had a couple of opportunities after the interval but was denied by Mackenzie Arnold.



Villa complete stunning comeback

Rachel Daly scores her side's fourth as they seal their first win over City in five attempts
PHIL OLDHAM/SHUTTERSTOCK

Taylor had a plan, his players did not seem to know what it was.

In the second half, though, buoyed by the goal and likely fuelled by a testing half-time team talk, City pounced, scoring twice in two minutes to take the lead for the first time.

First, a corner from the left was headed back across goal by Steph Houghton and Khadija Shaw steered her header into the bottom corner. Then, a ball over the top found the winger Chloe Kelly, who lashed a cross into the middle for Coombs to fire past Hampton. It was a rapid turnaround powered by City's electric attacking talents but the team's midfield and defensive fragility would be brutally exposed twice more to cancel out those efforts.

Three minutes after going behind, Villa were level. One of the recruits, Kenza Dali, latched on to a woeful pass into midfield from Houghton before cutting on to her right and lashing past Roebuck, with the strike deflecting off Alex Greenwood.

With less than 15 minutes to play Villa found a deserved winner. Kirsty Hanson's strike was spilled by Roebuck and Daly was on hand to prod in.

Ward said her players were "sensational" and added that Daly will be "a massive player" for them this season. "Believe it or not she was unwell yesterday and this morning," Ward added. "We didn't know after team breakfast if she was going to play and she's gone out and produced that today. She's a winner, she sets standards, she gets after people but she can play for sure."

For Taylor it is a different story. With City already out of the Champions League, having been knocked out by a goal from their former player Caroline Weir in qualifying against Real Madrid, and a 12-team league meaning every point matters, can they afford to be patient for long?

Villa's Daly double flattens City to leave Taylor facing questions

Aston Villa

Lehmann 22, Daly 32, 76, Dali 53

4
Manchester City

Coombs 45, 55, Shaw 53

3
Suzanne Wrack

Gareth Taylor had urged fans to be patient with his new-look Manchester City squad after a hefty turnover of players this summer but following a disjointed performance in a blistering defeat by Aston Villa, spearheaded by Rachel Daly, City fans were left with more questions than answers.

It was Aston Villa's first win over Manchester City in five attempts, having conceded 17 and failed to score in their previous four meetings, and they were made to work hard for the win at Villa Park, with City coming from two goals down to take the lead before Villa upped the press on

an unconvincing City backline and secured the victory.

"It's a tough one to take," said Taylor. "I thought we were off it a little bit in the first half, got a lifeline just before half-time and then turned the game around in 10 minutes of the second half. "At that point we looked like we were finding our rhythm but, if you score three goals and still don't get anything out of the game - even a draw - it tells you everything about what we were like without the ball."

There was room in the starting XI for only one of Taylor's seven recruits, with the former Atlético Madrid midfielder Laia Aleixandri making her debut in a midfield that sorely missed the bite provided by Keira Walsh and Georgia Stanway, who departed for Barcelona and Bayern Munich, respectively.

Aleixandri would feel the pressure in the buildup to the opening goal, being dispossessed by Villa's new striker Daly before Alisha Lehmann

latched on to the loose ball, raced away on the right and fired low past Ellie Roebuck.

The goal was worthy of the home performance, with Carla Ward's Villa side pressing, harrying and brimming with confidence. Ward, too, had overseen a summer of changes, with seven recruits and nine outgoing, but the difference between the transfer windows of the two sides was that City were forced to find replacements for key players, while Villa worked on upgrading their squad.

Villa's second spoke to that upgrade and City's weakening with Lehmann this time the aggressor, beating the City midfielder Laura Coombs to a dropping ball and allowing Daly to smash it into the top corner.

A mistake from Hannah Hampton gave City a look-in before the break, with the young England keeper leaning back to atone for her poor footing and sending the ball up into the roof of the net. It was a lifeline for City. If

Aston Villa

4-3-3
Hampton; Mayling, Patten, Turner, Pacheco; Dali, Corsie, Blundell (Gielnik 80); Lehmann (Gregory 80), Daly (McLoughlin 99), Hanson
Subs not used
Leat, Goodwin, Rabjohn, McAtee

Referee Louise Saunders Attendance 6,785

Manchester City

4-3-3
Roebuck; Morgan, Houghton, Greenwood, Stokes, Aleixandri, Angeldahl (Fowler ht), Coombs; Kelly (Raso 57), Shaw (Castellanos 70), Hemp
Subs not used
Caspari, Ouahabi, Losada, Maciver, Hutchings, Blakstad

Premier League

Brighton name De Zerbi as new manager on four-year deal

Fabrizio Romano

Brighton have made Roberto De Zerbi their new manager, with the Italian signing a four-year deal. The 43-year-old former Sassuolo and Shakhtar Donetsk manager agreed final terms late yesterday afternoon on a deal to succeed Graham Potter, who departed for Chelsea this month.

De Zerbi met with the club owner, Tony Bloom, the chief executive, Paul Barber, and the technical director, David Weir, a few days ago and flew into Sussex on Friday night before watching a behind-closed-doors friendly at the Amex Stadium on Saturday afternoon. As a mark of respect on the day of the Queen's funeral, De Zerbi will not be formally introduced to the media until tomorrow.

De Zerbi's 14 months at Shakhtar came to an end in July, as a result of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Shakhtar were top of the table when last season had to be abandoned.

Bloom said: "I am absolutely thrilled Roberto has agreed to become our new head coach. Roberto's teams play an exciting and courageous brand of football and I am confident his style and tactical approach will suit our existing squad superbly."

Weir said: "Roberto has shown his undoubtedly ability with his work in Italy and Ukraine, and what he achieved at Sassuolo certainly stands out. In his short spell with Shakhtar he enjoyed further success, leading the club to cup success and topping the Ukrainian league before the war brought an abrupt halt.

"We are delighted to welcome Roberto and we look forward to introducing him to our squad as well as providing all the support he needs to introduce his coaching philosophy and help the players continue their brilliant start to the season."

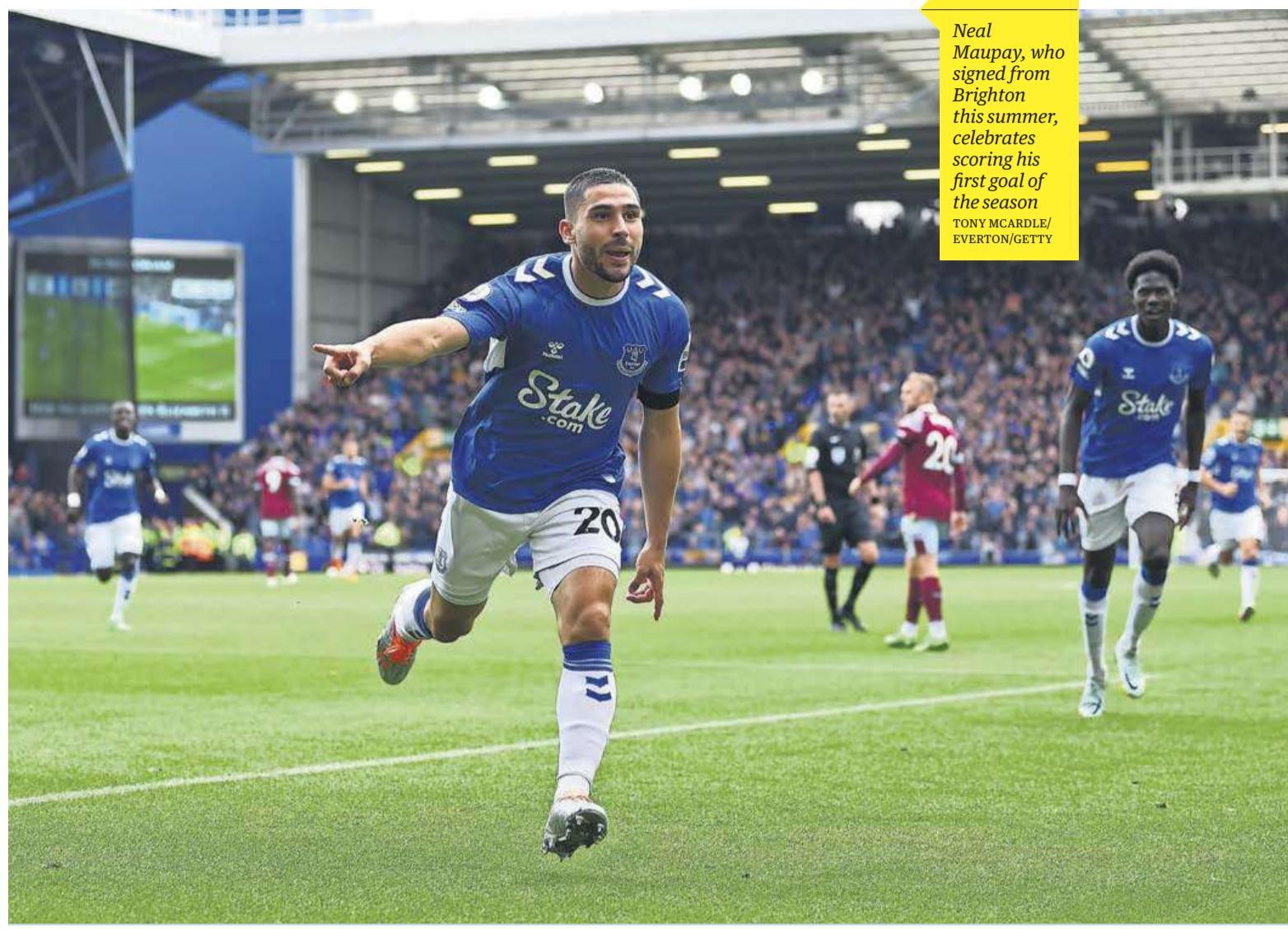
Barber, who is also deputy chairman, said: "We looked at a range of excellent candidates but Roberto was our number one choice from the start and the only person we spoke to."

"We feel Roberto is the ideal cultural and technical fit for Brighton, and the right person to continue the club's progress and work with this outstanding group of players."

Brighton's first game after the international break is at Liverpool on 1 October, after which they play at home to Tottenham on 8 October.



▲ Roberto De Zerbi has coached Shakhtar Donetsk and Sassuolo


**Maupay
bursts
Hammers'
bubble**

Neal Maupay, who signed from Brighton this summer, celebrates scoring his first goal of the season

TONY MCARDLE/EVERTON/GETTY

Relief for Everton as Maupay's sublime goal sees off West Ham

Everton	1
Maupay 53	
West Ham	0
Possession	
Everton 53%	West Ham 47%
Shots on target	
2	4
Total attempts	
7	14

Will Unwin
Goodison Park

Frank Lampard went to each corner of the ground after the final whistle, fist pumping and heart racing. It was easy to see what a first Premier League win of the season meant to the Everton manager and it lifted the gloom going into the international break.

The performance to defeat West Ham was industrious, littered with brief moments of quality, including Neal Maupay's sublime winner. Lampard will not mind how the result arrived but he will be desperate for it to provide lift-off for Everton after four straight draws.

"The spirit is growing and the work and application of the team is big, but you need a result to show for it," Lampard said. "The fact we were

four unbeaten going into this in the league is a great thing but we all know we want wins and to see ourselves where we are now in 13th and start thinking: 'Can we move in an upward direction?' And there is so much work to do on that front. At this moment it is massive for us to get a win."

The minute's silence was interrupted repeatedly by boos from home supporters. The away end quickly retorted with a profane demand for silence, a sign of the lack of imagination in the back and forth to come from Everton and West Ham.

The atmosphere was subdued for large parts as fans watched a home side without Dominic Calvert-Lewin, omitted as a precaution, and the injured Jordan Pickford. The fiery atmosphere that helped keep Everton in the league last season had been replaced with trepidation and fear. The fans arrived in hope rather than expectation and they were rewarded for their commitment.

There were nerves abounding; every misplaced pass in the early stages was greeted with a mixture of sighs and groans. Supporters are fearful of a repeat of last year's battle for survival. Hearts were pumping a little faster when Jarrod Bowen burst into the penalty area and sent a cross into the six-yard box; Everton's captain, Conor Coady, got a toe on it before colliding with Asmir Begovic as they watched the ball bounce inches wide

rather than into the back of the net.

West Ham, who made it two wins from two in the Europa Conference League at Silkeborg on Thursday, could at least claim they had enjoyed the only efforts on target of the first half: two of the tamest headers imaginable, that Begovic could have saved with his eyes closed. As David Moyes said: "The first half was a poor game all round."

Maupay had spent the afternoon working hard without reward. Rarely did the new signing from Brighton make the right run for teammates but when it mattered he found the net. Alex Iwobi played the ball into the Frenchman, he took a perfect controlling touch on the edge of the box, swivelled and fired a right-footed shot home with his second. The subdued nature of Goodison was forgotten as every stand erupted in unison; even the corner flag joined in, thanks to Maupay's boot.

"I think he has ticked a few boxes in his first few starts and that is great for him," Lampard said. "He's added to the group and we needed it. We've played games earlier in the season with false 9s, wingers in those areas trying to find solutions that meant we were playing OK but without that cutting edge."

After a carefree 20 minutes following the goal, nerves returned to the stands with fans desperate for Everton to see things through. Their

fears were not allayed when substitute Saïd Benrahma picked up a loose ball 25 yards from goal, got it out of his feet and took aim. A statue-like Begovic was beaten but he was relieved to hear a ping amid the silence as the ball hit the inside of the post and bounced clear.

Maxwel Cornet had two fine chances to equalise but a mixture of Begovic and Nathan Patterson prevented him from scoring as Everton held on, aided by the robust foundations of their back four, a key attribute in a side who are yet to score two in a match this season.

Moyes, returning to the club he managed for more than a decade, stepped on to the pitch to speed things up while Everton tried to waste time in the latter stages, much to the West Ham manager's chagrin. The defeat means the crisis baton has been passed on to the Hammers, who have four points from seven games.

"We didn't play well, I've got to say Everton didn't either," Moyes said. "We had a game on Thursday night and you have to take that into consideration as well. We are also putting new players in and trying to find out more about them. Today we found out little bits, but it was mainly the players I know about - they are the ones who let me down with poor play overall."

Everton
4-2-3-1

Begovic; Patterson, Coady, Tarkowski, Mykolaitis; Onana, Gueye; Gray (Doucouré 81), Iwobi, Gordon (McNeil 75); Maupay (Rondon 89)

Subs not used

Jakupovic, Keane, Coleman, Davies, Vinagre, Garner

West Ham
4-2-3-1

Fabianski; Coufal, Zouma, Kehrer, Cresswell (Emerson 90); Soucek, Rice; Bowen, Lucas Paquetá (Cornet 62), Fornals (Benrahma 62); Antonio (Scamaccia 70)

Subs not used

Areola, Lanzini, Downes, Dawson, Ogbonna

Saturday's talking points
Newcastle

Isak 67pen

1

Bournemouth

Billing 62

1

Referee Craig Pawson Att 52,238

It is one thing monopolising the ball and quite another knowing what to do with it. Newcastle enjoyed 72% of possession but required a VAR review-prompted penalty to earn a point. Indeed Eddie Howe's side were so flat that a counterattacking Bournemouth looked more dangerous. Until recently, Newcastle were a low possession, counterattacking side, and their stylistic transition partly explains why they have won only one league game. "We have got to be better with the ball," said Howe. "We've got to be more creative and show a bit more patience." Louise Taylor

Man of the match

Jordan Zemura Bournemouth

Tottenham

Kane 8, Dier 21, Bentancur 47, Son 73 84 86

6

Leicester

Tielemans 6pen, Maddison 41

2

Referee Simon Hooper Att 61,450

When is a 6-2 not a 6-2? Well, according to Brendan Rodgers and James Maddison, at the Tottenham Hotspur Stadium on Saturday evening. Leicester, so says the scoreline, were well beaten. But their manager and star attacker felt otherwise. Wishful thinking? Wilful blindness? A fair assessment? Who knows what to believe, although Rodgers' suggestion that Wout Faes excelled defensively on debut dilutes his credibility a little. Now comes an international break. For struggling managers, that fortnight's rest often becomes an extended hiatus. Sam Dalling

Man of the match

Son Heung-min Tottenham

Wolves

0

Manchester City

Grealish 1, Haaland 16, Foden 69

3

Referee Anthony Taylor Att 31,578

Watching a free-scoring City rack up another three goals must have felt something of a tease for Bruno Lage, given Wolves have managed that many across seven league games. The summer signing Sasa Kalajdzic faces months out with a knee injury, Raúl Jiménez is also sidelined, Gonçalo Guedes is yet to score since a £27.5m move from Valencia and Diego Costa is not yet fit. If Wolves' bluntness is a concern, then so too is the three-match suspension for Nathan Collins. Having allowed Conor Coady to depart, they appear light in defence and have problems to solve in both boxes. Ben Fisher

Man of the match

Phil Foden Manchester City

Referee Michael Oliver Attendance 39,298

Arsenal banish ghosts as Vieira adds killer touch

Brentford	0
Arsenal	3
Saliba 17, Jesus 28, Vieira 49	
Possession	
Brentford 36%	Arsenal 64%
Shots on target	
2	7
Total attempts	
5	13

Nick Ames
Gtech Community Stadium

This was, as the away support gleefully reminded Ivan Toney, a stroll in the park for Arsenal. It certainly presented some departure from the night, 13 months ago, when they buckled under a battering at this

venue. Brentford were quickly subdued to near silence and their new England call-up barely had a sniff thanks to a visiting defence whose performance was almost immaculate.

Last year Toney had tweeted about a “nice kick about with the boys” after his side’s 2–0 win; this time references to playground football became especially relevant in stoppage time, when Mikel Arteta felt sufficiently assured to create a piece of history. He sent on the schoolboy Ethan Nwaneri, who had not been born when the Emirates Stadium was completed in 2006: at 15 years and 181 days old, the England under-17 international became Arsenal’s youngest-ever player and the youngest to appear for any team in the Premier League.

Nwaneri made a tackle in his cameo and, taking his time to depart at the end, deservedly savoured the moment. Arsenal’s faithful were generous in their appreciation of the

the youngster and equally lusty in acknowledging their team’s return to the summit. When they resurface in two weekends’ time it will be for a north London derby between bitter rivals who both look in exceptional shape; perhaps it remains too early to make definitive conclusions but Arteta appears to have a unit that can, at the barest minimum, challenge concertedly for the top four.

They were vastly superior to a Brentford team that did not have a chance until Mikkel Damsgaard tested Aaron Ramsdale late on. Toney was smothered by Gabriel Magalhães even though the Brazilian had clearly felt an injury in the warm-up, also requiring treatment midway through the first half; to Gabriel’s right William Saliba blended graft with grace, one piece of defending when Toney appeared to have broken through taking the breath away with its sheer composure. It was Saliba who put Arsenal ahead with a more rudimentary action, glancing Bukayo Saka’s inswinging corner across David Raya via the far post and changing the complexion of a game that had begun scrappily in a brisk wind.

There was a brief wait before David Coote indicated it had crossed the line, Raya having scooped the ball back out, but nobody had been in any doubt. Saliba had got in front of Toney before rising high; it was a sequence that spoke aptly of the overall contest.

Born in 2007...

At 15 years and 181 days Ethan Nwaneri (below) became the youngest ever Premier League player – beating Harvey Elliott, who played for Fulham at the age of 16 years and 30 days in 2019. Northern Irish schoolboy Christopher Atherton still holds the record for the youngest senior footballer in the UK, though, after his recent appearance for Glenavon aged 13 years 329 days.



“You could see how much it meant to Arsenal; they knew it was difficult; look how they celebrated the first goal,” Thomas Frank, Brentford’s manager, said. They certainly enjoyed the moment, remaining in a prolonged huddle and perhaps reminding one another to push on from there. Frank had reverted to a back three, giving the fit-again Kristoffer Ajer his first appearance of the

season, and Brentford’s starting XI did not look ideally equipped to chase a game.

They had opted for solidity but a superbly constructed second goal made further mockery of that. Granit Xhaka’s deliciously dug-out cross drifted over Pontus Jansson for Gabriel Jesus, whose movement had been too much for the centre-back, to flex his neck and propel an emphatic header into Raya’s top-right corner. Jesus celebrated by kneeling and pretending to polish the boots of Xhaka, whose creative juices have been flowing in recent weeks.

Arsenal were missing Oleksandr Zinchenko and Martin Ødegaard through injury; the latter’s absence looked particularly troublesome at the outset and it was asking a lot of Fábio Vieira, the 22-year-old summer signing from Porto, to impose himself similarly. In fact he answered every possible question on his first top-flight start, delighting Arteta with his appetite for the game’s muckier aspects and providing the flourish that finished Brentford off.

It came four minutes into the second half after Saka, with a dart inside that twisted Ben Mee in knots, found him in a pocket of space. If it was a surprise that no home player was closing Vieira down, it was still quite something to see him arrow a breathtaking 22-yard finish that clipped an upright before bulging the net.

The presence of Nwaneri on a



young Arsenal bench might have suggested they lack depth, but the fact they can call upon such an accomplished deputy for their captain mitigated such concerns. "He's a creative player who needs to play with his gut feeling," Arteta said. "But what I like as well is the way he competes."

The contest was over: the atmosphere, among Brentford's ranks at least, had never really got going and perhaps the midday kick-off was to Arsenal's advantage. Now it was completely flat and the only significant consolation for Frank was that his players did not fold. Raya saved twice from Jesus and, with a flying one-handed stop, from Saka but this did not develop into the rout it might have been.

Even so, the point was well made. Ghosts are rarely exorcised this easily but, as Brentford tried to build pressure late on, even long throws of the kind that caused such strife in August 2021 were dealt with comfortably. For Arsenal a stroll could yet become the headiest of sprints.

Brentford

3-5-2
Raya; Ajer, Jansson, Mee; Hickey, Dasilva (Damsgaard, 63), Janett (Onyeka, 63), Jensen (Baptiste, 69), Henry; Toney, Mbeumo (Wissa, 76)
Subs not used
Canos, Zanka, Ghodossi, Strakosha, Roerslev

Referee David Coote Attendance 17,122

Arsenal

4-2-3-1
Ramsdale; White (Tomiyasu, 86), Saliba, Gabriel, Tierney; Partey (Lokonga, 78), Xhaka (Saka (Marquinhos, 90), Vieira (Nwaneri, 90), Martinelli (Nketiah, 78); Jesus (Subs not used Turner, Holding, Smith, Souza)

Vieira finishes off Brentford

Fábio Vieira, a new face at Arsenal but with a very familiar name, celebrates his fine goal NIGEL KEENE/PROSPORTS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Analysis

John Brewin Gtech Community Stadium

Arteta feels the love as the supporters' belief in him and his players grows and grows

After the ecstatic scenes of five straight wins, all that raving on the terraces, losing at Manchester United was a crashing comedown. The defensive wobbles there, the raging at officialdom and the missing of clutch chances had been an Arsenal story often told.

Brentford, by contrast, soon became a Sunday session for their supporters, mixing up old-school anthems with the latest hits as their team returned to the top of the league. Though Manchester City's Erling Haaland-inspired menace grows week on week, Arsenal are enjoying life at the top while they can. Do Arsenal fans trust Mikel Arteta's process? The bond the match-going contingent shares with his players feels stronger than with any Arsenal team for many a year.

Brentford was where last season began with a 2-0 defeat that demoralised, even allowing for a Covid outbreak in the camp as mitigation. It signposted a campaign where the promise of progress would be dashed by eventual disappointment. To win in such easy style at the same ground suggested more profound progress. Gabriel Jesus's goal, Arsenal's second, set up by Granit Xhaka, flourishing in a free role, was a beauty, the Brazilian heading home in a fashion reminiscent of Haaland himself.

Almost three years into the job, Arteta is no longer a rookie manager but the location of his ceiling is still undetermined. Having worked under Arsène Wenger and alongside Pep Guardiola, the hope was for a combination of both, though he is working at a club far less rich in resources than those mentors enjoyed. If Arsenal's £79m summer transfer net spend looks meaty, then it is still dwarfed by the £200m-plus lashed out for Todd Boehly's Chelsea all-stars, and by United's attempt to graft themselves into becoming Ajax.

Can this team challenge City for the title? With Chelsea under a new manager in Graham Potter, United amid an umpteenth rebuilding process and Liverpool frazzled after sailing too close to the sun last season, it may come down to the north London set of Tottenham and Arsenal to add any sense of intrigue at the top.

A match-day squad containing a 15-year-old in Ethan Nwaneri and Lino Souza, himself just 17, did not reflect heavy squad depth, even if it did allow Nwaneri, born a year after the Emirates Stadium was

opened, three years after Wenger's Invincibles season, to become the Premier League's youngest ever player when coming on in injury time.

Beyond rewriting that in the record books, Arteta could do with having both Oleksandr Zinchenko and Kieran Tierney around, rather than in rotation. The Scot showed that, when fit, he is one of the best attacking full-backs in the game. Zinchenko and Martin Ødegaard's absence gave Fábio Vieira the chance to make a first Premier League start in midfield, which he crowned with a special goal, Arsenal's third, whipped in, all disguise and fade, to leave David Raya sprawling in the Brentford goal.

Seventeen years on from the departure of a bona fide club legend in Patrick Vieira, Arsenal fans have a namesake to hail, though he is a rather different player. The 22-year-old Portuguese playmaker is small, adroit, all left foot, very much modern Arsenal rather than an alpha male of the past, but Arteta has another creative talent to call upon.

Brentford probably represent a different test to that of a year ago, Thomas Frank having sought to add dimensions to a squad hardened by 12 months in the Premier League,

To win in such easy style at the ground where they lost 2-0 at start of last season suggested more profound progress

► William Saliba rises in the area to send Arsenal on their way to an easy 3-0 victory that takes them top of the table DAVID PRICE/ARSENAL FC/GETTY IMAGES

even if the basic plan of swarming the opposition and picking up the pieces has not greatly altered. Though perhaps the novelty of a latter-day Crazy Gang chasing down every last throw-in has lost some of its shock value, even among those asked to carry it out.

Arsenal were more than capable of living with a Brentford energy and application that was decidedly under-amped, and the home fans, even though an early kick-off offered reasonable excuse for their stillness, were given little to work with.

van Toney was playing in his first match since his England call-up and may this week become the first Brentford player to play for the country since Les Smith in 1939, an honour celebrated by his club during the half-time break. But there was little to suggest Toney can be the next-best thing to Harry Kane as he struggled to find any loose change from a central defensive partnership of Gabriel Magalhães and William Saliba.

That Toney was also culpable in letting Saliba get a run on Bukayo Saka's corner to head in Arsenal's opener will doubtless have entered Gareth Southgate's scouting notebook.

"Nice kick about with the boys" was what Toney wrote on social media after Brentford's 2-0 home win in the opening game of last season, revealing Arteta as an unlikely Twitter user in an enraged reaction caught in the All Or Nothing documentary. Late on this time around, Toney's chance of imposing himself long lost, the away fans threw those words back at him. Here was more evidence of that growing bond with Arsenal's manager and his team.



▲ Jack Grealish scored the opening goal inside a minute at Wolves

De Bruyne says Grealish judged on nationality, not his football

Ben Fisher

Kevin De Bruyne has said Jack Grealish is an easy target for unfair criticism and believes his Manchester City teammate is judged more harshly simply because he is English. Grealish scored his first goal since May as City overcame Wolves on Saturday at the end of a week in which his impact has been heavily scrutinised, leading Pep Guardiola to defend the England forward's contributions.

Grealish was named in Gareth Southgate's squad to face Italy on Friday and Germany next Monday in the Nations League. Asked if Grealish is criticised more because of his nationality, De Bruyne replied: "Yes. It is not about football. Outside of football, the focus is more on them [England players]. I understand because they are English and people tend to look more [at] what is happening.

"I feel like foreign players, for instance if you have a night out, we don't really get checked that often. Whereas I feel if an English player goes out, it is always in the media somewhere. I think people are taking this on board also. What he does in his private life he does, nobody should care, but people do."

Grealish opened the scoring after 55 seconds in City's 3-0 victory at Molineux and afterwards said the persistent commentary regarding his lack of goals and assists since joining the club in a record-breaking £100m deal from boyhood club Aston Villa was justified. In 28 appearances last season the 27-year-old scored three league goals.

Guardiola pointed to Grealish's price-tag as a factor in the fuss. "When you pay a lot for a transfer, they have to do incredible things," the City manager said. "He has to be who he is, that is all. Good moments, bad moments everyone has. The important thing is: 'I am Jack Grealish, I play like I am. I go there with a good mentality and try to do the best for myself to help all of us.' That is all I want."

De Bruyne said Grealish required time to adapt. "With all due respect he was at Villa before and if you lose a game sometimes it is not the end of the world," he added. "But if we lose a game it is different. We have to perform every week and win games. That is different and what he has had to adjust to. As long as we win the games and he is doing a good job for us, that is all that matters."

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Gunning for the title
Frank backs Arsenal challenge
after Arteta's men return to top

Nick Ames
Gtech Community Stadium

Thomas Frank declared Arsenal are contenders for the title after seeing his Brentford side comprehensively beaten by the Premier League leaders.

Goals from William Saliba, Gabriel Jesus and Fábio Vieira ensured the game was in effect over by the 49th minute, meaning Arsenal returned to the summit and bounced back from their defeat at Manchester United. They have won six league matches out of seven and Frank believes they could be equipped to end a 19-year wait for the crown.

"They are top of the table so you cannot argue with that, they have done brilliantly," he said. "Look-



▲ Ethan Nwaneri made history when he came on as a late substitute

ing at the quality, they must be title contenders. From what I've seen in the seven games, I think they've been very good: they've won fair and square in six and the other game could have gone either way. [Gabriel] Jesus, wow, what a player ... it's nothing against [Manchester] City but sometimes it clicks in a different environment.

"[Bukayo] Saka and [Martin] Ødegaard are a year older: Ødegaard, what a player. Saliba, he's going to be a full international player for France, I'm sure. He'll start for that team and that's a strong international team."

Frank said the defeat, which came a month after the Bees had beaten Manchester United 4-0, was evidence that "it's never as good as it looks and it's never as bad as it feels".

Mikel Arteta, whose side face Tottenham and Liverpool at the Emirates after the international break, was predictably coy on talk of the title but more forthcoming on his decision to give Ethan Nwaneri, aged 15 years and 181 days, a record-breaking debut. He became the youngest footballer to play in the Premier League after appearing as a substitute in added time.

"It was a pure gut feeling," Arteta said. "I met the boy and really liked what I saw ... he's trained a couple of times with us. Yesterday he had to come because we have injuries, especially the injury of Martin [Ødegaard].

"It's another step [for Nwaneri]. It sends a really strong message about who we are as a club as well."

On winning 3-0 where they lost by two goals on the opening day of last season, Arteta said: "I'm really pleased with the performance and to win the match and go top of the league going into the international break. A lot of people described that day as embarrassing but I looked at it as a character-building day. You have to learn from those moments and then days like today happen. We are enjoying our football."

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Worcester on
'never-never'
and 'cannot
keep going'

Robert Kitson
Sixways

Worcester's director of rugby, Steve Diamond, says his team "cannot keep going" in the Premiership beyond the next few days unless a deal can be done to ease the club's increasingly acute cashflow crisis. There are fears the Warriors' weekend defeat by Exeter could be the last league fixture the club is able to fulfil without urgent fresh investment.

In a statement released yesterday, the club's owners insisted a new buyer was still keen to take over and that a formal announcement of a sale would be forthcoming "in the next 48 hours". Within the club, however, trust has virtually evaporated and there is not even enough money available to register loan players with the Rugby Football Union before Wednesday's Premiership Cup fixture against Gloucester.

Diamond also cannot yet say for certain whether Saturday's home game against Newcastle will go ahead, with the Exeter match having been staged only because volunteers offered to cover stewarding and medical requirements. "We are on the never-never at the minute; we can't keep going," said Diamond, having seen his side give a valiant display in a 36-21 defeat to the Chiefs.

"An answer is going to have to come this week. The players are now working in arrears. I don't know how long we can keep going but a line has to be drawn. It's quite embarrassing for us to call ourselves a high-performance environment. It's like the old days, a bit of shambles."

Pressure is also increasing on the authorities, with calls for Sport England to appoint an administrator to review the club's affairs and, specifically, to look at some of the subsequent Sixways land transactions after the allocation of £15m of taxpayers' money towards Worcester's survival.

Exeter prove too strong Page 38 →



▲ Steve Diamond hopes a deal can be done this week to rescue Worcester*

Liz Truss isn't even pretending to care about 'levelling up' *John Harris, page 3*

What the King can learn from my grandfather *Ndileka Mandela, page 4*

England needs more teachers, not grammar schools *Editorials, page 2*

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Journal



It was a modern pilgrimage – a journey to this historic day

Ian Jack



Great state occasions inspire an elevated kind of journalism, which does its best to match the mystical rituals of the ceremony and reflect or shape what it perceives as the national mood. "Two rivers run silently through London tonight and one is made of people," the Daily Mail's Vincent Mulchrone wrote in January 1965 of the queues to see Winston Churchill's lying in state. "Never safer, better guarded, lay a sleeping king than this, with a golden candlelight to warm his resting place, and the muffled footsteps of his devoted subjects to keep him company," the BBC's Richard Dimbleby told his radio audience in February 1952, when the coffin of George VI lay in the same ancient hall.

The Guardian has often taken a less Shakespearean approach. Its reports of George VI's lying in state, witnessed by nearly 300,000 people over three days, are lively with detail. Some aspects of queue behaviour still apply: there are ways of jumping it. In 1952, the jumpers honourably included "nurses who had been on night duty" and, perhaps less forgivably, "the boys and masters of Westminster School", who had

been led in through a side door. Other things belong to history. Telephone boxes overflowed with pennies from husbands taking "a minute to explain that they would be home late".

Other newspapers carried similar details. What marked out the Guardian was its wryness, its refusal to get carried away. It was a Manchester paper, after all. On the night before the king's funeral, the London correspondent toured the streets twice to gauge the kind of people who were prepared to wait for hours in the cold to have the best view. At 10pm, he noticed the groups that had set up camp in the Mall were mostly elderly women - "some were old women and some were very old women with memories of Queen Victoria's funeral". At 2am, he saw the last of the queueuers emerge from Westminster Hall to ponder "whether to wait for the procession or go home to bed. Bed is winning." In the meantime, Whitehall had filled with one-night-only pavement dwellers using old blankets, mackintoshes and in-memoriam editions of that morning's papers to protect themselves against a bitter wind.

"Everybody was stoutly clad but everybody was cold," the London correspondent wrote, and the question

The queue from Southwark Park on Friday to see the Queen lying in state

PHOTOGRAPH:
HANNAH MCKAY/
REUTERS



It was a modern pilgrimage – a journey to this historic day

Ian Jack

Continued from front

 naturally arose, as it has naturally arisen several times in the 70 years since, more pressingly since the whole affair can be watched at length without leaving home: *why?* Why freeze in the cold overnight for a fleeting sight of a gun carriage; why queue for 16 hours to walk past a catafalque in 60 seconds? The Guardian's correspondent observed that when a reporter asked the question, he was "disconcerted to find that the kind of people who sit up all night ... answer in clichés or in headlines that were considered the latest thing in Northcliffe's day. 'It's cold but we shall see it through.' 'I've seen every royal procession since ...' or 'Been waiting three hours - feels like three days.'

By "Northcliffe's day", he meant the first 20-odd years of the newspaper Lord Northcliffe founded, the Daily Mail, and when I visited the queue last week I have to admit that a part of me wanted to discover that the relationship between the Mail and the royal crowd persisted. In fact, so far as I could tell, it didn't. People spoke articulately and sincerely and freshly, in the sense that their words seemed unborrowed. They nearly always mentioned the fellowship that had been created by the act of walking and stopping - walking and stopping again and again - on the four or five miles along the Thames to Westminster. "It's like a kind of pilgrimage," one woman said, and that was how it often looked: a pilgrimage with Essential Waitrose and Pret a Manger carrier bags, takeaway pizzas and coffees, and the occasional beer. A pilgrimage without self-flagellation or any major discomfort beyond sleeplessness, tired legs and sore backs. As the Guardian said in 1952, "mourning" wouldn't be the right word for a crowd that was "cheerful but decently subdued".


At Southwark Park on a warm Saturday afternoon, the pre-queue queue set off at a cracking pace, tramping along a chicane of rubber mats and temporary fencing that folded back and forth across the grass, a kind of treadmill in which we were the only moving parts, the distance between us and the bandstand hardly wider after 15 minutes' brisk walking. The estimated time of the journey in prospect was 14 hours, but despite this a young woman kept shouting at us like a friendly sergeant major. "Move along now! Keep it up! Well done!" I think she was south Asian, or of south Asian heritage. There have been estimates of the multicultural nature of the crowd (mine is: a lot less multicultural than the average London bus), but none so far as I know of the police, stewards and marshals who directed and channelled the crowd from A to B.

The police were almost entirely white; the stewards and marshals with very few exceptions black or brown. Most were from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, and their languages included Hindi, Punjabi, Telugu, Tamil, Gujarati and Bengali, as well as English. Private security firms pay them the standard living wage of £9.18 or £9.50 an hour, depending on their age. Many held the recently created post-study work visa that enables them to stay in the UK for two years after their graduate or (more usually) postgraduate studies have ended. In 2020-21, UK universities attracted more than 84,000 students from India alone.

In Southwark Park, I asked a few of them what they made of the crowd they were guiding towards the dead queen. They estimated that most were over 50, that 10% were African or African-Caribbean and another 10% south Asian or Chinese. They were all very friendly. There had been no trouble.

"Why is England so crazy about the Queen?" a student from Hyderabad asked. Her companion, from Ahmedabad, had an answer. The Queen was clearly popular; leaders became popular when they did good for their people; ergo, the Queen must have done good for her people. "She was a great woman, she deserves the respect." It was tremendously logical, needed no poetry, and will do for the time being.

The Guardian

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'Comment is free... but facts are sacred' CP Scott

Education

England needs more teachers, not a return to grammar schools

A new school year is under way, and already pressures are acute. The six-month freeze on energy bills promised by the prime minister offers short-term relief but leaves headteachers to puzzle over what happens next. Schools in England are expected to turn to reserves - if they have them. With a 5% pay rise for teachers also due to come out of existing budgets, finances are precarious.

Teaching assistants' jobs are at risk, along with educational trips. Senior Conservative figures are among those warning that high inflation and funding shortfalls are placing headteachers in an impossible position. The post-pandemic catchup is far from complete, after the botched outsourcing of the main tutoring contract. Added to these problems is a shortage of teachers that ministers have known about for years. A recruitment and retention strategy announced in 2019 has not brought results. Instead, new figures show that the situation is getting worse, with vacancies at their highest level since 2010. This year just 25% of the required number of trainee physics teachers have been recruited. Almost half of teachers say they plan to quit within five years.

Teaching unions will this month take the first step towards strike action. Last week, in a joint initiative with education charities and other groups, they petitioned Kit Malthouse, the new secretary of state, to develop a long-term strategy including new vocational routes. It was clear before Liz Truss took office that the government had lost its way: now Mr Malthouse is the fifth education secretary in a year, and the schools white paper is on hold. But the signals being sent by Downing Street are

the worst ones imaginable. Rather than focus on the practicalities of energy costs and insulation, how to retain good teachers and supporting pupils through the cost of living crisis, the prime minister wants to create more grammar school places.

It should not be necessary in 2022 to point out why this is a terrible policy. Because selection via the 11-plus exam continues in some areas, a live experiment has been running for decades. It shows that selective areas do not outperform non-selective ones. On the contrary, multiple studies show that any enhancement of the grades of grammar pupils is achieved at the expense of pupils in non-selective schools in the same areas. Through grammar schools' practice of taking a disproportionately small number of pupils from poor backgrounds, and pupils with special educational needs, they increase existing inequalities. There is no way to "tutor-proof" entrance tests to prevent better-off families from buying their children an advantage.

Grammars never educated more than a quarter of children - which is why they became unpopular and were abolished. Their heyday was a period when psychologists believed intelligence was fixed and easily measurable. Ministers can't turn back the clock, nor should they want to. But appointments to Mr Malthouse's team, including Rory Gribbell, indicate that this is the plan.

It may never happen. Many authoritative voices will oppose it. Becky Francis of the Education Endowment Foundation, which advises the government on tackling inequality in schools, has urged ministers to "focus on evidence not ideology". Education did not feature prominently in the leadership race, and appears to have fallen off ministers' list of priorities. But it is an indictment of the new prime minister and her party that when parents, pupils and teachers have so much to worry about, they have nothing to offer beyond the urge to flog a dead horse.

Television

Now is the moment to scrap misguided plans to privatise Channel 4

The teetering in tray that faces the government after its long, hot summer offers opportunities as well as challenges, not least for the new culture secretary, Michelle Donelan. The proposed privatisation of Channel 4 is one of them: here is the perfect opportunity to quietly drop plans that, even according to the government's own consultation paper, hardly anyone wants. Nadine Dorries led the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) up to the top of the ideological hill, like the grand old Duke of York, without checking that her muskets were primed. So the government's tactics, such as meddling with the wording of the channel's annual report to bring it to heel, looked petty and ridiculous because its field commander appeared not to understand what exactly it would be privatising.

The set-up of Channel 4 is admittedly complicated. Established by Margaret Thatcher's government in 1982 to produce "innovative, alternative content that challenges the status quo", it is publicly owned but commercially funded. Unlike the BBC - which is financed through the licence fee - it makes no call on taxpayers, who would therefore have no financial gain from its privatisation. The advertising market on which it relies is tough, but there are better ways to support it than to flog it off, such as taxing online advertising on commercial streaming platforms, as suggested by the Media Reform Coalition.

The big advantage of its current remit is that, though it has to pay its way, it is free to reinvest its profits

in programming, enabling it to take risks with game-changing shows such as Russell T Davies's AIDS drama, *It's a Sin*, or the Muslim riot grrrls sitcom *We Are Ladyparts*. It could also go ahead with an episode of *Gogglebox* the day after the Queen's death, arguing that the "much loved national institution" would bring "a valuable sense of continuity for viewers", while its rivals felt compelled to scrub their schedules for wall-to-wall tributes. On Monday came a discussion of *Britain After the Queen*, which it was hard to imagine airing on the BBC or ITV.

Whatever one thinks of these commissioning and scheduling decisions, they involve precisely the sort of alternative and/or innovative content that would suffer - along with news and current affairs - if the broadcaster was forced to put profits first. According to industry analysts, the sacrifices for this ideological lunacy could amount to 40% to 50% of its £660m programming budget. Meanwhile, as many as 60 television production companies around the UK that depend on Channel 4 commissions would be in danger of going bust, affecting the government's levelling up ambitions outside London. If saved from privatisation, the channel could and should do even more to focus on its regional strengths, innovation and appeal to diverse audiences. For all its assets, there is still room for improvement.

In the absence of an economically and culturally sound rationale for the sell-off, some speculated that the broadcaster's disrespect for the then prime minister Boris Johnson was to blame, while Ms Dorries made a discredited claim that paid actors were imported for a reality show in which she took part. But these were merely covers for a scattershot campaign against an innovative media organisation. The case for privatisation is not proved, and no plans for the sale have yet been published. The responsible course for Ms Donelan is to lead the DCMS back down the hill again. In the current chaos, it will barely register as a retreat.



Liz Truss isn't even pretending to care about 'levelling up'

John Harris



As this most strange and surreal of national moments has unfolded, voices of power and influence have constantly talked about national unity and shared feeling. But, by a grim accident of timing, when politics resumes this week the biggest story will be about something that suggests the exact opposite: a government so unconcerned by the huge gaps that divide people and places that it is going to widen them even further.

Friday will see the much-trailed "fiscal event" in which the new chancellor, Kwasi Kwarteng, will outline the details of the government's energy price freeze and the tax cuts promised by Liz Truss in her campaign for the Tory leadership. The Resolution Foundation reckons that, on average, the richest 10th of households will benefit from these measures by about £4,700 a year, while the poorest 10th will receive £2,200. By way of adding insult to injury, towards the end of last week news broke of Kwarteng's push to remove the existing cap on banker's bonuses, a legacy of our membership of the EU. As with Truss's hostility to an extended windfall tax on the big energy companies, here was more proof of her government's key intention: to "go for growth" by privileging wealthy and powerful people and interests, in the hope that doing so might boost the UK's output.

Clearly, that approach leaves little room for the jumble of policies, rhetoric and half-formed intentions known as levelling up.

To no one's great surprise, Truss's first speech outside Downing Street made no mention of the term at all. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities is now the responsibility of the low-wattage Tory minister Simon Clarke. Out in the real world, the comparatively small-scale projects funded by £4.8bn of dedicated levelling up money are now threatened by rising inflation - and late last week, the Financial Times reported that among both local councils and Whitehall insiders, "there was no expectation of extra cash from central government". So far, one of the few glimmers of thinking about regional inequality among Truss and her allies has been a fuzzy

Liz Truss's first prime minister's questions on 7 September

PHOTOGRAPH:
UK PARLIAMENT/
JESSICA TAYLOR/EPA

The agenda failed under Boris Johnson due to incoherence and incompetence. For our new PM, the problem is ideological

suggestion that "certain areas" will be turned into low-tax, deregulated enterprise zones - a reheated version of an old and failed idea, and a far cry from past levelling up promises of infrastructure, improved education and all the rest.

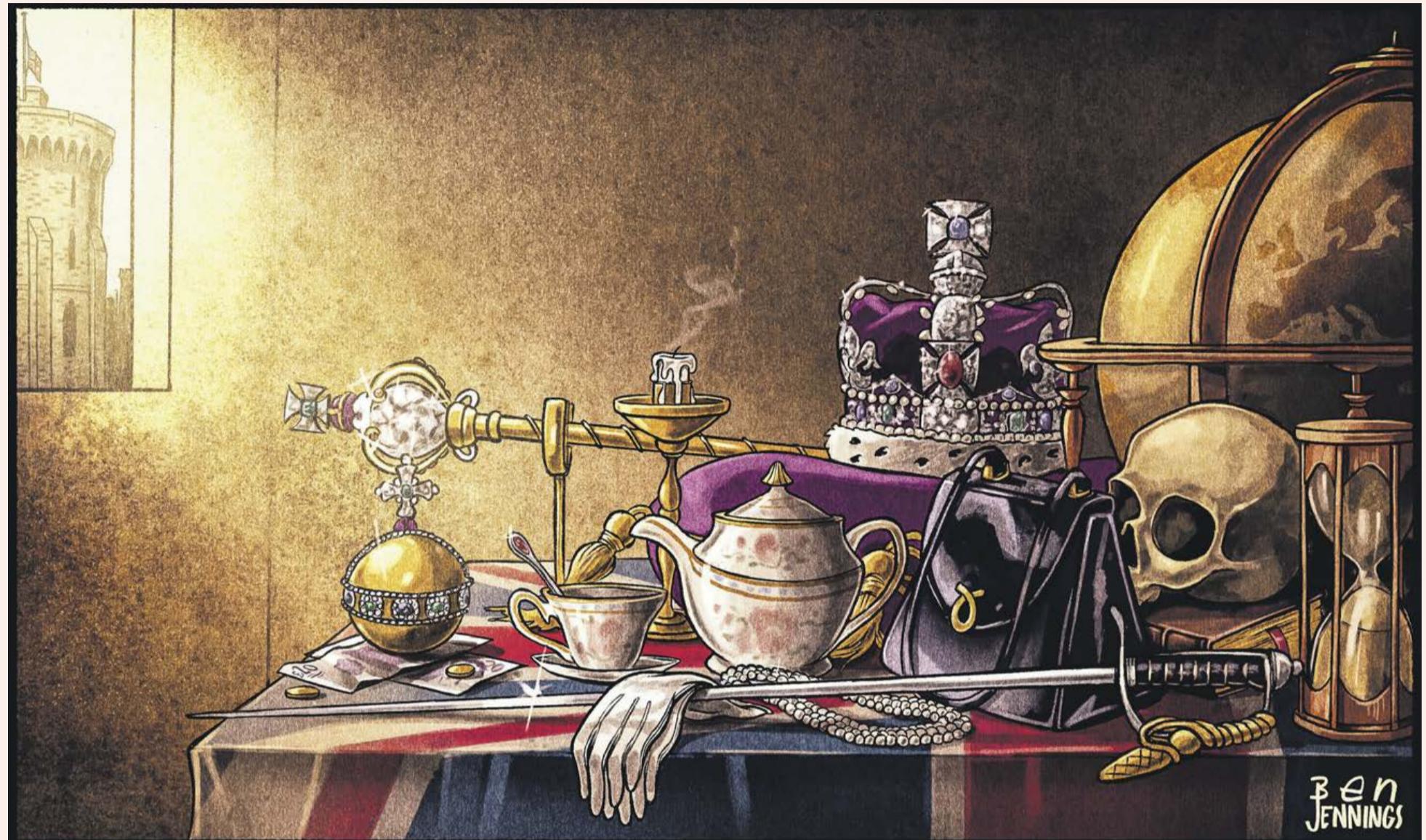
Under Boris Johnson, levelling up's failure could be put down to a lack of coherence and competence. But in Truss's case, the sense of the idea hitting the wall is the result of ideological convictions highlighted in her first big TV interview. Four days before the Queen died, she appeared on the BBC's new programme Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg, where she was asked by the host why she was prioritising tax cuts that would hugely benefit people at the top. "This is a really important point," she insisted. "The economic debate for the past 20 years has been dominated by discussions about redistribution. And what has happened is, we have had relatively low growth ... and that has been holding our country back."

Superficially, this is a very strange view of the past two decades: was that period really so "dominated" by a debate about fairness and inequality that it stifled the economy?

What she was really bemoaning, it seems to me, was the turn Tory politics took after the Brexit referendum. Theresa May and Johnson may have qualified their talk about the UK's inequalities by insisting that they did not intend to take money from areas at the top of wealth and income rankings. But they nonetheless talked up their focus on disadvantaged people and places, and claimed that they could use the state to start to reshape the British economy. In February this year, the then levelling up secretary, Michael Gove, contrasted levelling up with "trickle-down economics", and said that if the free market was left to itself, "then what you see is inequality growing".

This is what Truss and her allies have seemingly come to avenge. "She has an agenda, it's quite ideological, and it's very Conservative," says George Osborne. "We didn't get that with either Boris Johnson or Theresa May." That last point is true. The fact that Truss's two predecessors said they would move away from post-Thatcher Toryism, in fact, was a big part of the reason why the political loyalties of former Labour heartlands began to shake in 2017, leading to the fall of the so-called red wall two years later. However delusional it may now seem, plenty of people in such places had voted to leave the EU in a spirit of hope, and both May and Johnson then did their best to convince them that their optimism wasn't misplaced.

Now we are suddenly in a very different political climate. What, you can only wonder, is Truss's message to voters who live in the kind of areas still routinely termed "left behind"? That they ought to damp down their hopes, do their best to get through hard times, and rejoice if some sugar-rush boom in financial services pushes up national income by a few per cent? If that remains her government's approach, millions of people will know exactly what they are dealing with: the end of any lingering hopes that levelling up would mean anything, and the return of the credo that ensured they were left behind in the first place.



What the King can learn from my grandfather

Ndileka Mandela



What makes a leader? To some, it's simply a person with power - the more brutal and unrestrained, the better. But for my grandfather, Nelson Mandela, power was something else. It was found in the willingness to commit your entire being to a set of values; to not only advocate for them but to embody them. Come what may.

In that respect, many leaders don't have power in the ordinary sense that we associate with the term. For people such as my grandfather, their moral courage and strength is what allowed them to exercise influence. What's more, people often

cannot help but align themselves with the values and virtues of a noble person. That is why my grandfather went from a prison cell to helping overturn apartheid, winning over the most ardent critics in South Africa.

And that is why he would have mourned the loss of the Queen along with the wider world. Some may find that strange, considering the painful legacy of British colonialism in Africa (and beyond). But I saw in Queen Elizabeth II a contrast with what the United Kingdom once was, as well as an opportunity to understand what leadership could be.

The Queen's relationship to my continent was a long one. She was in Africa when her father died. The connection endured, and during her reign she visited more than 20 African nations. Once, she even joked to my grandfather that she'd been to more of Africa than "almost anybody". But for so many Africans, we mourn her because of the reason she developed a friendship with Nelson Mandela.

I know from personal recollection with my grandfather that he saw in the Queen a true friend. Someone who understood him and how he understood the world. Someone who was, for Britain, exactly what Britain needed during times of change: compassionate conscience.

The Queen refused to visit South Africa during apartheid, with some even believing the tension between her and Margaret Thatcher was partly due to Thatcher's blatant inaction. What the Queen did after apartheid underscored where she stood all along (and might explain why she and my grandfather were on a first-name basis, an uncommon status with a British monarch). She declared her support for South Africa's first Black president quickly, making her one of the first world leaders to do so. She also smoothed the way for South Africa to rejoin the Commonwealth, overturning yet another consequence of apartheid.

So the Queen deserves praise, but also imitation - the sincerest form of flattery. King Charles III now succeeds his late mother at a time that is difficult for Britain and the world. With a pandemic just behind us, and facing other major challenges such as the climate crisis, the world looks to him to follow the legacy of his mother - to be, in short, a moral leader.

One way the King can do that is by drawing on the immense faith-based symbolic power and credibility he possesses - not only as the head of the Church of England, but as a monarch who has spent years building bridges with faith leaders and communities across the globe. This is the same Charles who once said that he wants to be a "defender of faith", rather than simply a "defender of the faith", to reflect his commitment towards people of all religions.

The world needs such a leader now. Someone capable of using constructive non-political avenues to build bridges at a time when the nations and regions of the world feel as if they are drifting further apart. And there are ample new partners King Charles can engage with. Like Pope Francis, who has been outspoken on the climate emergency. Or the Aga Khan, who has taken great pains to build interfaith bridges. Or Mohammad bin Abdulkarim Al-Issa, who runs the world's largest Islamic NGO, the Muslim World League, and who led the first Islamic religious delegation to Auschwitz.

Yes, such efforts by the new king would be devoid of any political power. But the Queen and my grandfather proved that real power lies in the hearts and minds of people. And that is why they, and now King Charles, are capable of commanding such influence and respect. Because their character is their means of communication, their principles are their politics, and their values and virtues hold strong.

*
Ndileka Mandela
is a writer,
social activist
and head of
the Thembekile
Mandela
Foundation

Established 1906

Country diaryWolsingham,
County Durham

September 1962: a group of 11-year-olds armed with hand lenses, members of the school natural history club, sit around a table. The biology teacher Ken Murch, introducing us to wonders of nature that lie beyond the limits of the unaided human eye, hands us a ripe spore capsule of a moss: "Look at this, but breathe on it first."

Sixty years later, I still carry a hand lens. Today I followed Ken's instructions again, looking at a capsule of capillary thread-moss, plucked from a wall. A ring of tiny peristome teeth around the capsule mouth, regulating the shedding of spores, clenches and unclenches in response to moisture in my breath. Exquisite natural micro-engineering, as captivating now as it was all those years ago.

Three hundred years earlier, in 1665, Robert Hooke, an insatiably inquisitive polymath, was the first to describe and illustrate the hidden beauty of mosses, in *Micrographia*, commissioned by the Royal Society to provide "physiological descriptions of minute bodies made by magnifying glasses".

Inside a spore capsule, he found "exceeding small white seeds" - moss spores invisible to the naked eye - leading him to question the prevailing superstitious notion that mosses sprang spontaneously from the "corruption" of surfaces they grew upon. He speculated, accurately, that those "exceeding small, and consequently exceeding light" seeds were "carried to and fro in the Air into every place" until they were washed down by falling drops of rain, to take root and propagate. A triumph of curiosity, fact-based science and deduction.

He put his finger on one reason why these lowly plants, among the first to colonise dry land, have endured for 350m years and survived three cataclysmic mass extinctions. Their spores reach everywhere that wind blows, rain falls and life can survive.

August's heat withered mosses here; September's heavy showers revived them. Turning my hand lens on an emerald-green dome of grey-cushioned grimmia, growing on a fence post, I can see long, silvery leaf hairs that capture and channel mist and rain into its damp core. Within that miniature rainforest microcosm there will be minute animals: tardigrades, rotifers, nematodes. But I'll need a microscope to see those, so I take a piece home.

Phil Gates

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Under the monarchy, an unequal world flourished

Afua Hirsch's article explicitly describes the everlasting damage created in the name of colonialism (Britain has lost its Queen, and the luxury of denying its past, 14 September). I saw first-hand the ongoing horrors and cruelty of this in the 25 years that I worked for the international trade union movement in Africa, Asia and the South Pacific islands.

Land was taken over to grow food for the west so it got used to having cheap pineapples and mangoes all year round. Rubber and palm oil plantations in Malaysia destroyed soil and reduced the amount of land for domestic farming. Mines ruined people's lives and created civil disturbance in Papua New Guinea - the list is endless.

This globalised world of international trade controlled by the mega-rich and multinationals has created another form of slavery. Workers are paid a pittance to work in inhumane conditions, while families struggle to keep their children alive. We cruelly let these countries pay the price for climate change disasters and deny them affordable Covid vaccinations.

Counting the cost of a King's inheritance

If the King's inheritance were solely for his personal pleasure, and if to pay tax would not lead to the break-up or selling off of estates, I might agree with Aditya Chakraborty (It's one law for our billionaire king, another for the rest of us, 15 September). I regard the monarch as the curator of these palaces and castles, held in trust for the nation - a bit like the National Trust.

If money raised from inheritance tax from the monarch found its way directly into the pockets of the nation's poor, it might be worth it. But having seen the chronic waste of public money by Boris Johnson's government and the daily injustice of wealthy entrepreneurs avoiding taxation by clever accounting, I would say that there's one law for the powerful moneyed classes and another for the rest of us.

Yvonne Williams
Ryde, Isle of Wight

The state that lets King Charles avoid inheritance tax is also the state that makes elderly people who need residential or nursing home

For all the good things that Queen Elizabeth II did for us, did she really create a "modern world" where all people - not just white people - can live in a world of justice, fairness and equality? I think not.

Jennifer Luck
London

● Afua Hirsch writes eloquently of the silencing of voices that would remind us of the violence of empire. There is a silence, too, over the present-day reality of the place of the British monarchy in the wider world. Much is made in the wall-to-wall coverage of the late Queen's life of her devotion to the Commonwealth, but I have yet to hear it clearly explained that of the 56 member nations of the Commonwealth, the British monarch is currently head of state of just 15, and that this number is sure to diminish further. Perhaps this is deemed to be too uncomfortable a truth.

Chris Sinha
Norwich

● Afua Hirsch's excellent article was a reminder how fortunate I was to grow up in Canada. While

care sell their homes to pay for it. Many thousands of elderly people have been thus denied passing on any inheritance to their children, while Charles not only pockets a substantial inheritance from his mother, he also does not pay any tax on it. It cannot be a fair world where this is allowed to happen. Such unfairness will inevitably lead to increased calls for an end to the monarchy as it now exists.

Roger Dobson
Llanvetherine, Abergavenny

● Aditya Chakraborty is right to question the time devoted by MPs to paying tribute to the late Queen. Hansard of 11 February 1952 records four tributes delivered to King George VI. These were from Winston Churchill (prime minister), Clement Attlee (Labour leader), Clement Davies (Liberal leader) and Walter Elliot (on behalf of the Father of the House). All four managed to pay tribute in a little over 4,000 words, so probably delivered in under half an hour.

In contrast, Hansard records 321 MPs giving tributes to Queen Elizabeth, taking two days. Perhaps the broadcasting of parliament encourages indulgence of this kind, but today's MPs might reflect on whether their words are truly so much more valuable than those of their predecessors 70 years ago.

Mike Sheaff
Plymouth

Afua was indoctrinated into a life of "deference and admiration" to the monarch, I was free to turn my back as the cavalcade led by Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip swept by our home in St John's, Newfoundland, in the late 1950s. No police swooped. No neighbours and friends cold-shouldered me and my Canadian/Scottish parents respected my beliefs. But I won't be doing that on Monday in central London. Who wants to be wrestled to the ground, or worse, by a grieving, censorious crowd and by the police, government-sanctioned to stamp out all protest?

Jackie Robertson
London

● Afua Hirsh writes that the trauma of colonisation isn't recalled with a single voice. It often isn't recalled at all. I feel I live in a country where there is a culture of wilful ignorance of Britain's colonial past. I am German by birth. The contrast in how the two countries deal with their cruel, racist histories could not be starker. In my family we talked about Nazi Germany and the roles family members played. That openness is essential to help relate history books to lived experience and how we are all part of our country's history. We cannot undo history. But we can stop being wilfully ignorant of it.

Sonja Jutte
London

Corrections and clarifications

● We mistakenly demoted Christopher Ghika by referring to him as a major in the British army's household division. Ghika is the major general commanding the household division (Horses and riders ready for final duty for Queen, 14 September, p11).

● Antony Armstrong-Jones's title was Lord Snowdon, not "Snowden" ('She was the one and only stable female in my life', 12 September, G2, p6).

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A moment of light relief in dark times

As an increasingly depressed republican, my own moment of "light relief" (Marina Hyde, Journal, 17 September) came with the discovery that the Queen's funeral coincided with International Talk Like a Pirate Day. I hope someone has told Justin Welby. I might watch the event after all.

Karen Barratt
Winchester

● I wonder how many people will lose a day's pay today, as I did for the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer in 1981? I'm sure that it will be felt by many, given the cost of living crisis.

Name and address supplied

● "More than 10,000 police on duty to ensure funeral goes smoothly" (17 September) - sounds like a good day in London for burglars and other assorted criminals.

Eddie Dougal
Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk

● Never mind the contents of today's paper, how can I get one? I rely on my local Tesco Express, which is not opening until 5pm and is not expecting a delivery. The other local option is Waitrose, which is not opening at all.

Rodney Smith
Glasgow

● With Costa and other coffee shops closed for the funeral, what am I to do for my mourning coffee?

Richard Ellerker
Warboys, Cambridgeshire

● "It was simultaneously absurd and magnificent. And surprisingly moving" - thank you, John Crace, for those words (Sketch, 16 September). They sum up the past week so well.

David Goddard
Dorchester, Dorset



Alain Tanner

Swiss new wave film director whose work focused on characters alienated from society

The film director Alain Tanner, who has died aged 92, was a leading light in the Swiss new wave at the start of the 1970s. Tanner's cinema attempted to arouse "a smug nation drowsed by a facile ideology of neutrality" by looking at alternative lifestyles.

In 1968, Tanner and his friend Claude Goretta co-founded the Groupe 5 collective of Swiss filmmakers. They proposed an idea to Swiss TV for the funding of full-length features to be shot in 16mm and then blown up to 35mm for release. This enabled Tanner to make his first feature film, *Charles Mort ou Vif* (*Charles, Dead or Alive*, 1969), which won first prize at the Locarno festival, and became the first Swiss film in more than two decades to be shown widely abroad.

In the film, *Charles* (played by François Simon), a watchmaker, opts out of the rat race, leaving his family and bourgeois life to move in with an artist and his mistress. Inspired by the spirit of May 68, it

suggested the sociological themes that Tanner would develop in his films, which explore people who grow alienated from society and try, but fail, to forge a new one.

In *La Salamandre* (*The Salamander*, 1971), a novelist and a journalist interview a working-class girl (Bulle Ogier) suspected of shooting her guardian. This study of a non-conformist, seen from different angles, became one of Switzerland's first domestic box-office hits. *Le Milieu du Monde* (*The Middle of the World*, 1974) follows a young Italian woman who comes to a small Swiss town to work as a waitress at a railway cafe. She has an affair with Paul (the first name used by most of Tanner's heroes), a married engineer, who tries to make her enter his middle-class world, but she rejects it and him.

Although a simple love story, there is a parable of the conflict between rich and poor, male and female and north and south within in it. The title refers to a posh restaurant but also to Switzerland.

Tanner and the writer John Berger created that rare species, a polemical comedy, with *Jonas Qui*

A scene from the 1976 film Jonas Qui Aura 25 Ans en l'An 2000 (Jonah Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000), directed by Tanner, below
SHUTTERSTOCK/CITEL/KOBAL/VITTORIO ZUNINO CELOTTO/WIREIMAGE

Aura 25 Ans en l'An 2000 (*Jonah Who Will Be 25 in the Year 2000*, 1976). It views its eight characters - who include a copy editor, a rural worker, a teacher and a supermarket cashier - warmly and vividly as they try in different ways to maintain the ideals of May 68 and find alternatives to capitalism.

Messidor (1978) focuses on two young women, a student and a shop assistant, who meet while hitchhiking and begin to hold up stores, becoming wanted criminals until the spree ends in their deaths. Tanner stated that he was instinctively averse to depicting physical violence. "Killing a person," he said, "is generally a gratuitous special effect."

However, he uses the plot to convey his preoccupation with the limits of freedom. Tanner observes his amoral heroines with a cold but fascinated eye as they travel across Switzerland - not the country of the tourist brochures, but one of crowded motorways and roadside cafes.

Tanner, who was born in Geneva, studied economics at the city's university, where Goretta was a fellow student and founder of the university film club. In 1955, the friends travelled to London and found work at the British Film Institute, subtitling foreign films.

In 1957, they co-wrote and co-directed *Nice Time*, a 17-minute documentary about Piccadilly Circus, as part of the British Free



Cinema movement. It was shot in 16mm on light-sensitive stock over 25 weekends and edited down to represent a single Saturday night in the West End of London.

After working as an assistant producer for the BBC, Tanner returned to Switzerland, where he made a series of documentaries for TV in the *cinéma vérité* style. One of the best was *A City at Chandigarh* (1966), about the work of Le Corbusier in India. It was the beginning of a collaboration with Berger, whom Tanner met through Lindsay Anderson at the BFI, and who narrated the film. Berger co-wrote three of Tanner's films.

Influenced by Bertolt Brecht, much of Tanner's work sought to create a distancing effect between the audience and the characters, though they gradually became less didactic. In 1981, he emerged from a heart operation claiming to have finished with political discourse.

Light Years Away, his first film in English, released that year, was an allegorical tale set in Ireland with Trevor Howard as a kind of guru who teaches a rebellious young man that individual freedom is more important than a cosy world of anodyne conformity. It won the grand jury prize at Cannes.

Dans la Ville Blanche (*In the White City*, 1983) was set and shot in Lisbon, where Paul (Bruno Ganz), a depressed ship's engineer, lodges in a waterfront hotel, where he falls in love with the maid. He decides not to return to his ship and wanders the city with a Super 8 camera, sending his wife the films. Tanner reflects Paul's alienation in his contrasting images of sun-bathed Lisbon, then its evening shadows, and Switzerland, where Paul's wife sits in ordered domesticity watching the films that reflect her husband's state of mind.

The title of *No Man's Land* (1985) refers to the rural zone between the Swiss and French borders, where a group of young smugglers eke out a precarious existence. Beautifully framed, the movie ponders the equation between the need for home and the urge to flee.

One of the key characters in the film was played by Myriam Mézières, with whom Tanner had a long relationship. Her presence in *Une Flamme dans Mon Coeur* (*A Flame in My Heart*, 1987), *Le Journal de Lady M* (*The Diary of Lady M*, 1993) and *Fleurs de Sang* (2002), all written or co-written by Mézières, brought a new sexuality into Tanner's films.

His final period, in which he collaborated with the writer Bernard Comment on *Fourbi* (1996), *Requiem* (1998), *Jonas et Lila, à Demain* (1999) and *Paul S'en Va* (2004), was a return to his earlier films made in the shadow of May 68.

Ronald Bergan

Alain Tanner, film director, born 6 December 1929; died 11 September 2022

Ronald Bergan died in 2020

Sonny Barger

Hells Angels president behind the transformation of a motorcycle club into a notorious global brand

As the longtime president of the Hells Angels motorcycle club, Sonny Barger, who has died aged 83, was the epitome of the outlaw biker. It was something he had earned, but also an image he cultivated with charisma and shrewdness, turning Hells Angels into a worldwide brand. Though law enforcement saw the Angels as more of a gang than a club, in the 1960s the media latched on to Barger (pronounced Bar-gurr), selling the outlaw image to the world as a form of countercultural protest that took celluloid form in films such as Easy Rider (1969).

This is not surprising. The postwar image of motorcycle gangs was established by the 1953 movie The Wild One. When Marlon Brando, as the leader of the Black Rebels, is asked what he is rebelling against, he replies, "Whaddaya got?" Early in his biking career, after having his skull fractured by police, Barger added a "1%" patch to the Angels' outfit, in response to the head of the American Motorcyclist Association claiming "99% of motorcyclists were law-abiding".

Law-abiding Barger was not. In October 1965 some Angels attacked an anti-war demonstration in Berkeley, California; six were arrested. A delegation of Angels and their chief rival motorcycle gang, the Gypsy Jokers, met the activist Jerry Rubin and poet Allen Ginsberg in front of 1,000

people at San Jose State College to negotiate "clearance" for the November march scheduled for Oakland. That went nowhere, but the day before the march, Barger announced the Angels would stay away out of "patriotic concerns" that anti-American marchers might "provoke violent acts by us ... and only produce sympathy for this mob of traitors". He also sent a telegram to the then president, Lyndon Johnson, offering Hells Angels' services to provide a "trained group of crack gorillas [sic] to demoralise the Viet Cong and advance the cause of freedom".

In December 1969 the Angels were hired by the Rolling Stones to provide security at the Altamont free festival. During a brawl between the bikers and the crowd, a black spectator, Meredith Hunter, was knifed to death by an Angel, Alan Passaro. Passaro was acquitted on grounds of self-defence.

Barger claimed the spectators had provoked the violence by damaging the Angels' bikes; but he also claimed that the crowd had grown restless as the Stones were late and he had held a gun to Keith Richards' face to get them to start. That claim was revised to using the gun to keep the band playing after the violence, which can be seen in the 1970 documentary Gimme Shelter, had begun.

Born Ralph Barger Jr in Modesto, California, Sonny grew up in the tough port area of Oakland, where his father, Ralph Sr, was a dock worker. His mother, Kathryn (nee Ritch), ran off with a bus driver

Barger in 1979, the year he was charged with racketeering offences of which he was acquitted

JANET FRIES/GETTY IMAGES

when Sonny was four; he was raised by his grandmother and his father, an alcoholic who took his young son with him on crawls through the seamen's bars.

An indifferent student, Barger quit school at 16 and joined the army. Fourteen months later he was discharged, as he had lied about his age to join without parental permission. Back in Oakland, living between his father's and his sister's families, and doing dock work, he met fellow veterans and in 1956 joined the Oakland Panthers motorcycle club.

A year later he and Don "Boots" Reeves founded the Oakland chapter of the Hells Angels, using a logo borrowed from a club in Sacramento. The apostrophe you would expect in Hells would not fit on their new patch.

They affiliated with the Angels' mother chapter in San Bernardino; the clubs unified primarily by their battles with the Jokers. When the overall president was sent to prison in 1958, Sonny, aged 20, replaced him, and moved the mother chapter to Oakland. By now he was being arrested regularly, for marijuana possession or assault with a deadly weapon.

Barger was attracting attention, and in 1966 Hunter S Thompson's first book, Hell's Angels: The Strange and Terrible Saga of the Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs, appeared; though it was less "gonzo" than his later work, Barger's portrayal lent much to Thompson's future image. Two years later Barger appeared in Tom Wolfe's Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test when the author Ken Kesey invited the Oakland Angels to a party; Kesey introduced the bikers to LSD.

By now, Barger had given up his job as a machinist, and taken advantage of the publicity to work as a technical adviser in exploitation biker movies, beginning with Roger Corman's Wild Angels (1966), starring Peter Fonda and Nancy Sinatra. In 1967 he was consultant on, and had a cameo part in, Richard Rush's Hells Angels on Wheels, which starred Jack Nicholson, and graduated to a speaking part as himself in the movie Hell's Angels '69 (1969).

These set the scene for Nicholson and Fonda's acting breakthrough with Dennis Hopper in Easy Rider, a romantic portrayal of bikers as countercultural outlaws. And Barger's dream of patriotic bikers as guerrillas was given life on film in The Losers (1970), in which members of the "Devil's Advocates" take armoured choppers to rescue a CIA agent held in Cambodia.

Despite establishing a relationship with the police that led to the Angels trading weapons for arrested members, Barger's rap sheet grew. He escaped drug-dealing, kidnapping and murder charges, but was finally convicted in 1973 of possession of heroin and firearms. As he was a former felon, both were illegal. Sentenced to 10

Birthdays

Kate Adie, broadcaster, 77; **Louise Bottling**, broadcaster, 83; **Richard Burdon**, Labour MP, 42; **Jarvis Cocker**, musician and broadcaster, 59; **Mark Drakeford**, Labour MS and first minister of Wales, 68; **Artur Ekert**, professor of quantum physics, Oxford University, 61; **Jim Fox**, Olympic pentathlete, 81; **Goldie**, musician and DJ, 57; **Rosemary Harris**, actor, 95; **Frances Houghton**, Olympic rower, 42; **Jeremy Irons**, actor, 74; **Alun Wyn Jones**, rugby player, 37; **Kevin Lygo**, ITV director of television, 65; **Patrick Marber**, writer and director, 58; **David McCallum**, actor, 89; **Pete Murray**, broadcaster, 97; **Freida Payne**, singer and actor, 80; **Adam Phillips**, psychotherapist and writer, 68; **Sally Potter**, film director and screenwriter, 73; **Prof Michael Proctor**, physicist and provost of King's College, Cambridge, 72; **Dame Zandra Rhodes**, fashion designer, 82; **Nile Rodgers**, musician, 70; **Bridget Rosewell**, economist, 71; **Twiggy**, actor and model, 73; **Prof Sir Christopher White**, former director, the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, 92.

years to life, he served four and a half years at Folsom prison, and reputedly continued to run the Angels from his cell, and to marry his second wife, Sharon, there. His first wife, Elsie Mae (nee George), had died of an embolism in 1967 after a then illegal abortion.

In 1979 Barger was one of 33 people charged with racketeering under federal Rico (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organisations Act) laws. Though the outcome of most cases was mistrial, he and Sharon were the only two acquitted outright.

In 1983 Barger contracted throat cancer; his vocal cords were removed and he learned to speak through a vocaliser in his oesophagus. In 1987, he was again arrested on federal conspiracy charges of drug and gun running in California, but found himself on trial in Louisville, Kentucky, accused of supplying explosives to destroy the Outlaws motorcycle gang there in a territorial dispute. He was convicted and served three and a half years of a four-year sentence; he insisted he had been entrapped by the FBI.

Barger withdrew from public leadership of the Angels and by 1998 was living in Arizona. Divorced amicably from Sharon, he married Beth Noel (nee Black). They divorced after a domestic dispute in which she had to go to hospital with a broken rib and lacerated spleen. He was convicted of aggravated assault, but served only eight days in jail.

With warfare between gangs intensifying, in 2002 he tried to organise a peace conference at the Laughlin River Run rally in Nevada, but a battle between Hells Angels and Mongols left three dead, and it was cancelled.

He marketed various Sonny Barger items, including his own salsa, and began writing books, including a biography, Hells Angel (2001), written with the twin brothers Keith and Kent Zimmerman. With the Zimmermans, he also wrote a memoir of biker tales and two novels about a biker named Patch Kinkade, one of which, Dead in 5 Heartbeats, was made into a film in 2013 that he produced along with his fourth wife, Zorana (nee Katzakian); they both played bit parts in it. Between 2010 and 2012 he made three appearances on the biker TV drama Sons of Anarchy.

Zorana and Sonny had married in 2005, the year he wrote Freedom: Credos From the Road, a compendium of his wisdom and guide to life. And in 2010, with Darwin Holmstrom, he produced a guide to safe motorcycling, Let's Ride, as if he were now fully transformed into one of the 99%.

Zorana survives him.

Michael Carlson

Sonny (Ralph Hubert) Barger, motorcycle gang leader, born 8 October 1938; died 29 June 2022



Barger's dream of patriotic bikers as guerrillas was given life in The Losers



Saturday's solutions

Sandwich sudoku

9	5	7	8	3	1	6	2	4
6	2	4	9	5	7	1	3	8
8	1	3	4	2	6	5	9	7
4	3	8	1	6	9	2	7	5
5	6	1	7	8	2	3	4	9
7	9	2	3	4	5	8	6	1
3	4	9	6	1	8	7	5	2
2	8	6	5	7	4	9	1	3
1	7	5	2	9	3	4	8	6

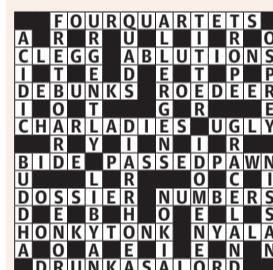
35 9 2 4 7 13 25 22 0

Killer Sudoku 831

6	4	5	9	8	7	2	1	3
3	9	1	2	6	5	7	4	8
2	7	8	1	3	4	9	5	6
1	5	7	3	4	9	6	8	2
8	6	3	5	7	2	1	9	4
9	2	4	6	1	8	5	3	7
5	3	9	8	2	6	4	7	1
4	1	2	7	9	3	8	6	5
7	8	6	4	5	1	3	2	9

Cryptic crossword

Solution No. 28,859



This week's winners of
The Language Lover's Puzzle
Book are:

G Cameron, Loughborough
Richard Pritchard, Hounslow
Eric Birznieks, Golborne
Arnold Meyers, Arnside
L Sutcliffe, London

Please allow 28 days for
delivery.

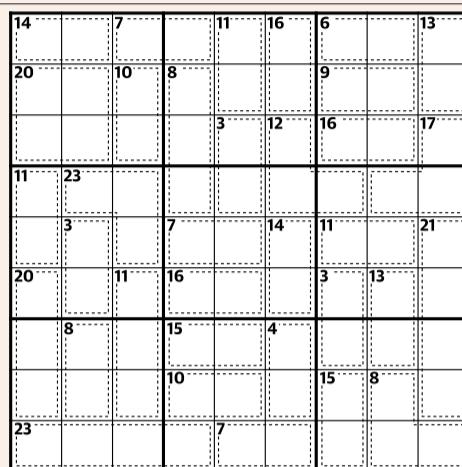


Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83.
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phone company's access charge.
Service supplied by ATS.
Call 0330 333 6946 for customer
service (charged at standard rate).
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4,000 puzzles at theguardian.com/crossword. To buy puzzle books, visit
guardianbookshop.com or call
0330 333 6846.*

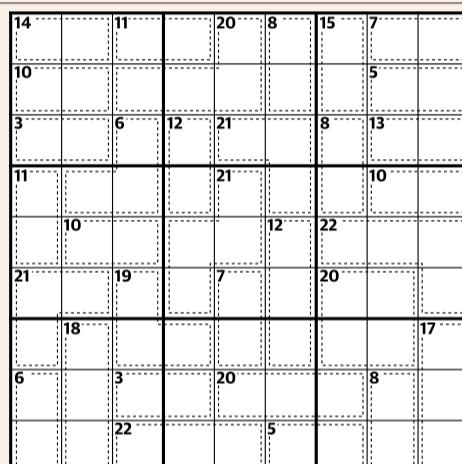
Killer sudoku

Easy

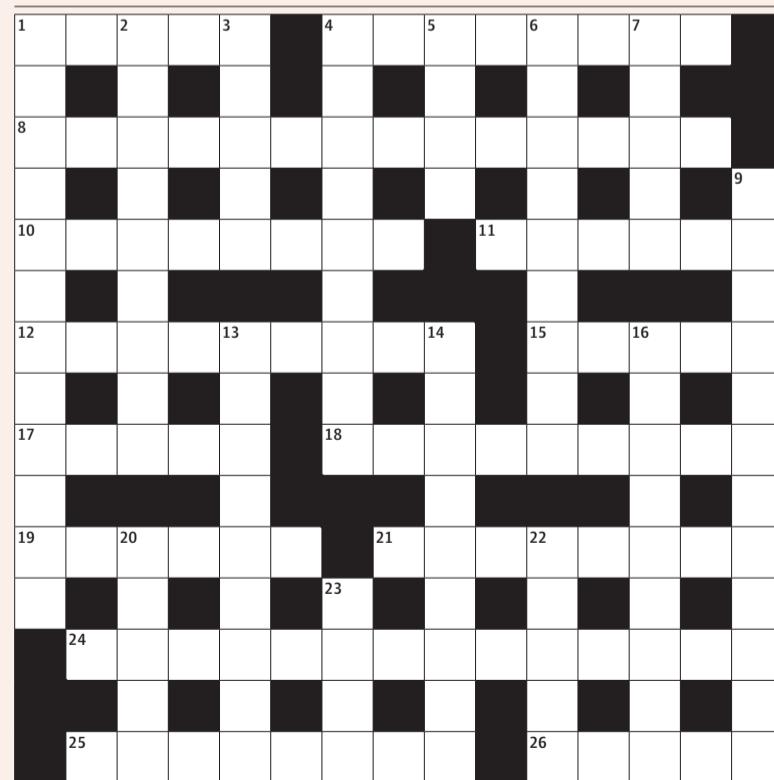
The normal rules of Sudoku apply: fill each row, column and 3x3 box with all the numbers from 1 to 9. In addition, the digits in each inner shape (marked by dots) must add up to the number in the top corner of that box. No digit can be repeated within an inner shape.



Medium

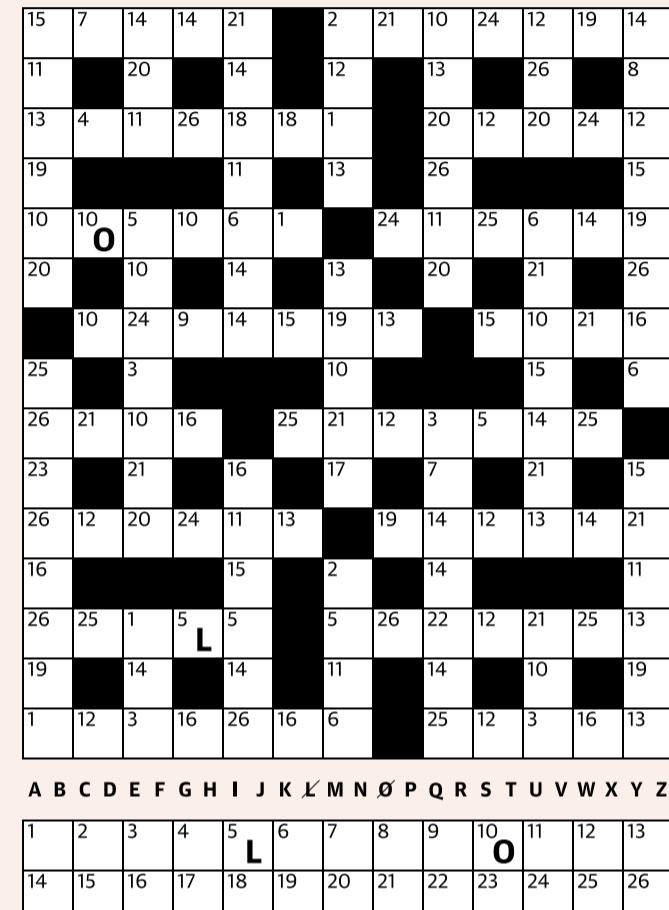


Guardian cryptic crossword No 28,866 set by Soup



Codeword

Each letter of the alphabet makes at least one appearance in the grid, and is represented by the same number wherever it appears. The letters decoded should help you to identify other letters and words in the grid.



Across

- 1 Odd shuffling very large old animals (5)
- 4 One clicks what St Peter might have done (8)
- 8 I conquered, so cleric negotiated with us, leading to ever-worsening situations (7,7)
- 10 Nodding head at priestess before noon (8)
- 11 Hey __ swindle! (6)
- 12 Dismisses Let It Be: Beatles' fifth and last hit (9)
- 15 Praise the guts of fiery boxer, beating stout fellows (5)
- 17 Set aside a returned Bath bun Sally's not wanted (5)
- 18 Redcoat, before gaiety in Telford, spent money intended for someone else (5,4)
- 19 Sour fruit contributed by mother and child (6)
- 21 Wrong to take over from 20 with a Scotsman (8)
- 24 In this you won't find solutions for 21 down and 13 across (4,5,5)
- 25 A string's bent by the ninth one? (4,4)
- 26 Registers works (5)

Down

- 1 Almost entirely foresee GB rower Redgrave's third son jumping from these? (6,6)
- 2 Remove moggies, discharging a fire extinguisher – it's all kinds of sport! (9)
- 3 Swimming salmon mate – oddly, this is the result (5)
- 4 Lost cause in preparation? Not if you're hungry (9)
- 5 Fastens up slit (4)
- 6 One plans development of the Arctic (9)
- 7 My boss accepts people to do what subeditors do (5)
- 9 Showgirls (or Morris men?) (5,7)
- 13 Difficult request: a bit of buttered roll? A toastie's offered up (4,5)
- 14 French food ordered in Sanssouci (9)
- 16 Old long-distance communication could be a trumpet (5,4)
- 20 First chases second, being tearful (5)
- 22 I engaged in diplomacy without speaking (5)
- 23 Do you know what sushi rolls are wrapped in? Me neither! (4)

Murder he wrote

Steven Moffat on Sherlock, Doctor Who, 'sexy powerful women' and his new death row drama



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Life & Arts

Emma Beddington

How to argue with
your partner
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**The
Guardian**



'Strangers feel they know each other'
The power of
collective grief
page 6

A new start after 60



I recovered from cancer and became a personal trainer

In the autumn of 2019, a few weeks after his 60th birthday, Simon Lord began his new career as a personal trainer with a session in his local park in the Oxfordshire village of Cholsey. He had known that this was the job for him as soon as he opened the first page of his coursework.

The following year, just before the UK first went into lockdown, he extended the garage of the home where he lives with his wife, Sarah, and fitted it out with secondhand gym equipment. He now has 15 clients and delivers two group classes a week. All this he fits around his part-time job as a team leader at Tesco.

"I'm a late developer," he says, meaning that over the past decade he has studied for qualifications as a fitness instructor, then as a

personal trainer, and finally to specialise in rehabilitation after cancer. On the other hand, he adds: "I've actually seen something through."

As a child at school, and then as a young adult looking for a career, Lord had found it hard to settle. "Didn't do very well at school because I couldn't sit still," he says. Afterwards, "I was a middle-class job bum." He held short-lived roles in a bank, and tried various business ideas - "schemes doomed to fail" - and he looks back on this time as "probably when my ADHD was at its least controlled". He stumbled into a headhunter role and spent most of his working life as a freelance recruiter.

Now 63, Lord has never been formally diagnosed with ADHD, but when he was in his early 50s he decided that he probably had it,

after reading a newspaper article about the condition. "I can use it to my advantage rather than be a victim of it," he says. He has "got a bit of energy" and fits six days' work into five. "When you are around me," he says, "you know things are happening."

His new career came about in the wake of prostate cancer. He was 50; it was caught quickly and treated effectively, and within 16 weeks he ran a half-marathon. This gave him the feeling "that the cancer was behind me. I wasn't a victim of it, because I'd done this race. I was over it."

There was no psychological impact, no sudden fear of mortality, then? "There was probably a 24-hour spell when I was a bit taken aback," he says. However, someone once asked him if he had had an epiphany. "And I think I did."

He emerged from his recovery and the half-marathon with "a combination of focus and energy. It reinforced that desire to be optimistic and to look for a better life." His recruitment work was falling apart. "I thought, I'm going to get a basic job. I'm going to turn up and not be bothered what happens when I clock off. I said to my wife: 'I am going to get a job at Tesco and work on the checkout.'" But, of course, that was only half the story.

People kept telling him his recovery from cancer was inspiring. He thought he could share what he'd learned with others. There is nothing militaristic about his personal training style, although he was a reservist for the Special Air Service in his early 20s. "I'm not a shouty person," he says. "My style is

much more about encouragement and reward." He has also set up a website to help people recover from urinary incontinence. The measurable progress of fitness work appeals to him because "it is very categoric".

But there is something else. "As I have got older I have become far less 'in it for me' and rather more in it for others," Lord says. "When you are younger, you are convinced that life is essentially a solo event and only you can make everything work for you. As you get older, you come to realise it's more of a team event." He experiences this daily in personal training. "And it's a real privilege."

Paula Coccoza

Tell us: has your life taken a new direction after the age of 60? Fill in the online form at theguardian.com/new-start-after-60

Emma Beddington

Why am I fighting with my husband? To help our marriage

I want to get better at arguing. Not the bitter, exhausting kind that happens online, and not the kind that occurs when you put two French people in a room and within 90 seconds one of them is quoting Montaigne and the other has countered with Immanuel Kant, even though they are talking about, say, low-energy lightbulbs (about which neither of them previously had an opinion).

I'm interested in the domestic. I have never mastered the short, sharp spat, which can apparently be quite therapeutic. I wouldn't know. After an early phase of massive, horrible fights, my motto for decades has been: "Why say something when you could let it fester, explode at the worst possible time, be horrified and grovellingly row back until the next time?"

But there's scope for personal growth for even the most evolved among us (what is more evolved than WhatsApping pictures of the overflowing bin to a friend as your eyelid twitches involuntarily?). I want to get better at conflict. I don't expect to enjoy it, but like kale or exercise, tolerating the unpleasantness has long-term benefits. An online poll in 2012 suggested couples who argue "effectively" are 10 times more likely to have a happy relationship than those who don't.

So, to up my effectiveness, I have been reading *The Five Arguments All Couples (Need to) Have* by therapist Joanna Harrison. Harrison identifies categories of surface argument ("you never listen", "your mother drives me crazy", "you haven't taken the bin out", "stop looking at your phone", "we never have sex") through which we express deeper, fundamental issues around sharing a physical and emotional space with someone. Approached with curiosity and compassion, they can provide "rich opportunities to learn about each other and develop".

And what rich opportunities there are! The people we live with thoughtfully foster our personal development daily, filling our favourite mug with WD40, piling washing in a mouldering heap to "dry" and turning the sink into an immersive art installation called something like "Teabag Butterknife Pan Soak IX". Harrison writes that she has heard every variant of washing-up fight, and I believe it: dishwasher Tetris topped my unscientific survey of common fight topics by

miles - we're all exercised by fork prongs and pre-rinsing.

Some of these arguments, Harrison says, have a "playfulness"; they are more about expressing our individuality than the apparent subject. I can see how that might be, when you've lived with someone so long that your mind meld is total and you can look at a passing cat, both be reminded of the same minor incident in 2003, and then say out loud, simultaneously: "We need more plasters." We exert our independent existences by disagreeing about the correct place to store ketchup (the bin).

Most fights are horrible, but these entry-level spats, if you will, feel manageable. Buoyed by Harrison's encouragement, I currently have five of my own, in various stages of their life cycle, on the go. I'm not sure what deeper truths they express, but they are:

Bread goes in, not on, the bread bin. I have basically lost this. The bread bin is now a mere bread display unit.

You can leave a low-energy clothes airer on overnight - that's the point of it. This is in the war of attrition phase: on, off, on again but angled so the tell-tale light is now out of sight.

Unless you are willing to sniff the milk, you can't get huffy about it being thrown away. Conceded, reluctantly.

Recycling: you're doing it wrong. Never surrender.

A toaster with only one half-functional slot must be replaced. "It's fine," I argue. "You just flip the bread! That toaster is older than our children! What do you expect?" "Toast?" says my spouse. I aired this one publicly and was informed definitively that I am, as Reddit, global arbiter of arguments would have it, the asshole.

Despite this poor record, I am determined to keep fighting, and thus growing. It's not about the winning - it's about the taking part.



Couples who argue 'effectively' are more likely to stay together



I don't want to live in a world without deodorants



"Global supply chain management" used to be a phrase I heard only in phone calls from another room: it is what my husband does for work. Now, though, we are all invested, delving into what has happened to semiconductors, garage doors and mustard. The food sector is even warning of a looming shortage of carbon dioxide, one thing I thought we definitely had too much of.

Some shortages have been dramatic, but more often they are an inconvenience that makes us question carelessly held certainties about how stuff reaches us.

Take deodorant. I haven't been able to get a stick deodorant for months. My household uses Dove Original (the inoffensive plain crisp of deodorants) and things have been getting nasty as the last one wore down to nothing, rasping my armpit skin. A swift Google revealed that Mumsnet was all over it: apparently, most sticks are manufactured in Russia, hence the empty shelves. So it has been every man for himself, dabbling in sprays and roll-ons, rummaging through cupboards and testing the dregs. Things degenerated fast: a "96% natural" US-made alternative was aggressively scented and sticky, making my armpits smell and feel like a Bounty left in a hot car.

My deodorant complaints and internet searches brought the inevitable raft of targeted ads, scenting blood (well, sweat). Lured by the promises of "disruptive" deodorant manufacturers, I succumbed to a sleekly packaged refillable eco "system" just as the news on Mumsnet was that Dove is returning to the shops - now, apparently, made in Italy. It's too late for me - it's £6 refills for ever or become an eco-terrorist - but I am passing it on for any pits in need.



How we met Susie and Andrew

In 2018, Susie, now 33, was balancing her work as a criminal prosecutor in New South Wales, Australia, with her interest in spirituality. "I'd been raised Christian but left the church when I was a teenager," she says. "I later discovered new-age spirituality and went on my own journey."

When she was asked to travel to Sydney for work, she leapt at the chance. "As soon as I arrived, I went on Tinder and began lining up dates." Her first was with Andrew, now 35, who worked in market research. "I 'super-liked' her profile because I thought she had a lovely energy," he says. They met in a bar and Susie told him about her interest in spirituality. "Initially, he offered to set me up with his yoga teacher friend because he thought we'd be better suited," she laughs.

They had fun, but Andrew wasn't sure if they had a future together. "I am not spiritual at all," he says. However, their other values were well aligned, so they decided to meet up again. "By the end of the week, we were very into each other," says Susie. "I cancelled all my other dates to spend time with Andrew."

Over the next few months they saw more of each other, but their differing views on spirituality were still an issue. "I wondered if he'd be able to grow with me and be introspective, that I needed someone more on my wavelength," says Susie.

Meanwhile, Andrew was concerned she wouldn't want to commit long-term. "Three months after we met, she told me she was going to an intensive retreat that seemed a bit like a cult to me. We were also in an open relationship, which I wasn't sure about."

But their connection was too strong to ignore and, over time, their concerns began to fade. "Susie has changed my perspective on new-age spiritualism," he says. "She had a great life but was seeking another meaning."

Although they have maintained an open relationship, they engage only with people from Susie's close-knit tantra community. "Open relationship" is a big term, she says. "We are primarily monogamous and occasionally open with a handful of trusted people."

Susie moved to Sydney to be with Andrew in 2019 and started a new career as

a relationship and intimacy coach. They got engaged in April and plan to marry next year. "We weren't going to get married," says Susie. "But my mum is Christian and values the tradition. Now we are really excited about it."

Lizzie Cernik

Want to share your story? Tell us a little about yourself, your partner and how you got together by filling in the form at theguardian.com/how-we-met

'What would it take for a person



Writer Steven Moffat turned Doctor Who and Sherlock into TV gold. Now he has a new drama exploring why nice people do bad things. He talks to **Stuart Jeffries** about murder, morality - and accusations of sexism

Steven Moffat is flouncing down Piccadilly. "I've got seven Baftas," he snarls as we walk through the rain. We have just been refused admission to the sumptuous Bafta restaurant in the West End of London, where Moffat had a lunch date, before which we were planning to do the interview. Moffat didn't shout: "Don't you know who I am?" at the receptionist, but it was implied by the way he stood. His wife, the TV producer Sue Vertue, is a Bafta member, but he isn't, so they won't let us in even though I'm pretty sure someone made a reservation. "More if you count the Welsh Bafta," Moffat adds. "I'd have brought them as evidence, but I probably couldn't carry them all."

The former head writer of Doctor Who and Sherlock also has a couple of Primetime Emmys to his name, plus Royal Television Society

awards and an OBE. "Hasn't been much use so far," he says of the OBE.

What I should realise is that the 60-year-old TV writer is giving a performance. Moffat is too self-aware to throw a hubristic hissy fit. Yet this outrage, one feels, would not have happened to the actors who have found fame from his words over the years: David Tennant, Stanley Tucci, Jenna Coleman, Benedict Cumberbatch, Martin Freeman, Matt Smith, Karen Gillan, Claes Bang, Dolly Wells, Pearl Mackie and many others. Writers, though, are never A-list.

Or are they? Moffat's phone rings. We're in! Minutes later we are being served and Moffat is telling me he dreams of being a murderer. "It bothers me at night. What would it take for a person like me to kill someone? I know I wouldn't have the guts. And I'd think it was wrong."

"You're too nice a person," I say. "Thank you," Moffat says. "I am, aren't I?"

Moffat's excellent new four-part BBC drama, Inside Man, is about what happens when nice people do something they know to be wrong. One of them - an American criminology professor called

Jefferson Grieff, played by Tucci - is on death row after murdering his wife. Another, a vicar played by Tennant, has locked up his son's maths tutor in a cellar so she doesn't go to the police about the child abuse images she has found on the boy's laptop.

Moffat recalls a line from his drama that explains why nice people kill. "David Tennant is trying to explain his moral scruples to his wife in terms of his Christian religion, and she just says: 'Jesus didn't have kids.'" That line comes from Moffat's sensibility. What would prompt the writer to kill? If someone had harmed or sought to harm his kids. How intriguing it is, then, that in Inside Man, the vicar's son is played by one of Moffat's sons.

"The other thing about murder is that it is really hard. Doing nothing is so much easier." Moffat cites Hitchcock's 1966 film *Torn Curtain* to make his point. It takes a professor (played by Paul Newman) and a farmer's wife eight minutes and eight seconds to murder a Stasi agent. "I thought it was time to show that it was very difficult, very painful, and it takes a very long

time to kill a man," said Hitchcock at the time. The lesson for Moffat is clear: solving murder is easy; committing it is harder.

When Moffat was writing Sherlock between 2008 and 2017, he wasn't concerned about such matters. "Sherlock turns up after the crime has been committed. He comes in time to see the body in the library, and solves the crime by - ahem! - guessing accurately. But the real drama is before he arrives. I can see why that's a good formula."

Does he think Sherlock was formulaic? "We don't think of shows like Sherlock as dramas," says Moffat. "We think of them as entertainment, as puzzle boxes. Nothing wrong with that, or at least I don't think so. But a lot of people do. They see what I do as merely clever." That clearly rankles, as did the reviews he got when the backlash began against Sherlock's scripted cleverness. "My favourite review was one of Sherlock that went: 'As ever, regrettably, it falls back on cleverness.' Falls back on?" he snarls again. "That was just my default position. Being smarter than you. The other one was: 'Why can't Sherlock just be ordinary?'

like me to kill?'

Why? Maybe because ordinary wouldn't have made Sherlock an international success."

All that is true, but at least one of the Sherlock scripts by Moffat and co-writer Mark Gatiss was savaged for sexism. In Arthur Conan Doyle's story *A Scandal in Bohemia*, Irene Adler is an adventurer who outwits Holmes; in the free adaptation of that story in Sherlock, as Jane Clare Jones put it in the Guardian 10 years ago: "[She is] remade by Moffat as a high-class dominatrix saved only from certain death by the dramatic intervention of our hero. While Conan Doyle's original is hardly an exemplar of gender evolution, you've got to worry when a woman comes off worse in 2012 than in 1891." At the time Moffat, unsurprisingly, didn't agree. "In the original, Irene Adler's victory over Sherlock Holmes was to move house and run away with her husband. That's not a feminist victory."

Moffat was also criticised for writing boring female characters during his stewardship of Doctor Who (he took over as head writer from Russell T Davies in 2008). Jones accused him of plucking female characters "from a box marked 'tired old tropes' (drip/scold/tempress/earth mother to name but a few)", adding: "His consequent failure to sketch a compelling central dynamic between the lead and his companion has seriously affected the show's dramatic power."

Moffat barks at this, naming two leading female characters he created for Doctor Who. "River Song? Amy Pond? Hardly weak women. The exact opposite. You could accuse me of having a fetish for powerful, sexy women who like cheating people. That would be fair."

When I remind him of these criticisms, Moffat says some coverage has him pegged as "an insane, rightwing misogynist. I'm really none of those things. And I'm certainly no proselytiser for docile women, this heavily subscribed-to myth. I have never known a docile woman. You step through the front



Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman in Sherlock; Matt Smith and Karen Gillan in Doctor Who



door and accept your junior status. You think: 'I can still beat the dog.'"

The opening scene of Inside Man is striking in this context, a vignette about a misogynistic lout on a train undone by a far-from-docile woman. The manspreader gazes lasciviously at the passenger opposite, who will turn out to be a key character in the drama, journalist Beth Davenport (played by It's a Sin's Lydia West). He gets up to proposition her. Everyone in the carriage is uncomfortable, yet no one does anything. Moffat says he can relate to that mass inaction: "There's always an argument which loads of cowards like me would make: that if we do nothing at all, it will just stop, so doing nothing is the right thing to do."

But the scene escalates. A woman takes a photograph of the harassment. The lout demands she delete it. "That's assault," he tells her, snatching her phone. "You've invaded my personal space and I'm deleting your assault." But then a third woman stands up and tells him she is livestreaming his assault, and, with a bit of luck, the police will be at the next station to arrest him. Emboldened, other women stand up and start filming him.

The woman who claims to have alerted the police is the hero of the moment; and, in a nice piece of foreshadowing, she is the maths

tutor called Janice Fife (played by Dolly Wells) whom Tennant's vicar will later imprison. We know, then, what the vicar doesn't: he has picked on the wrong person. "She represents a kind of woman I know," says Moffat. "The kind of woman who is used to manipulating fools like us with the tilted head and humility, who, when you go one step too far, pushes right back. She's Ms Pushback. I know that kind of woman for sure."

I last interviewed Moffat 10 years ago when he had left 7.9 million BBC Sunday night viewers on tenterhooks. Sherlock (Cumberbatch) had plunged from a building, possibly pushed by Andrew Scott's Moriarty, seemingly to his death. The sleuth had to survive if there was to be a series three. But how? Perhaps the falling body was Moriarty in a Sherlock mask? Maybe pathologist Molly supplied a corpse to throw from the roof? He wouldn't reveal the secret. "There's a clue that everybody's missed," he told me then, clearly taking pleasure from flummoxing not just me but millions of viewers.

Moffat stopped writing Sherlock in 2017, but, for all that he claims he is not interested in writing more clever-clever crime storylines ("I've consciously tried not to write as aphoristically as I have in the past"), he can't help himself. In Inside Man, for instance, Tucci's Prof Grieff is essentially Sherlock solving crimes from his cell. Visitors bring him unsolved cases against which he pits his intelligence - aided by a terrifying serial killer in the next cell who has a photographic memory and who, for reasons I can scarcely account for, ate his mother's foot.

Moffat was born in Paisley, near Glasgow, in 1961. After an MA in English, he became a secondary school English teacher in Greenock. His TV break came in the late 80s, thanks to Harry Secombe. The former Goon visited Thorn primary school in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, to film his religious show, Highway. Moffat's father, Bill, the school's headteacher, allowed the show's

producers to film there on condition that they read his son's script for a TV series about a school newspaper. This became ITV's Press Gang. During its six-year run, Moffat's first wife left him for another man. He plundered that breakup for his next project, the BBC sitcom Joking Apart, about a sitcom writer and the rise and fall of his relationship. In later sitcoms Chalk (set in a school) and Coupling (which satirised male commitment phobia), he again mined his own biography.

Ever since he fulfilled a childhood dream in 2004 when he was hired to write for Doctor Who, that stuff has been, he says, "action, mystery, suspense, adventure - all those things, opposed to a deep analysis of the failures of the human heart that I could never possibly write". Why not? "Who wants to read the angst-ridden ravings of a middle-class successful writer who has had his two dream jobs: writing Doctor Who and Sherlock?"

Now, though, his days on those successful franchises are over. His friend Davies has returned to be Doctor Who's showrunner, but Moffat, as he told Radio Times in the spring, has no such ambitions. "Everyone can stop worrying. I did it for six seasons. And I cannot imagine going back."

But he has been busy. In 2020, he and Gatiss disinterred Bram Stoker's 1897 novel and wrote a well-received drama series called Dracula, starring Claes Bang and Dolly Wells. "The great thing now is I write for my own pleasure," he says. "I can write whatever I want." Maybe those Baftas and the OBE help after all.

Perhaps having a wife who is a big-time TV producer helps, too. Certainly, Vertue had a brilliant idea when it came to casting Inside Man. She told Moffat that Tucci was becalmed during lockdown in Barnes, only a few miles from the couple's home in Sheen, west London. "Lockdown did have one advantage. It means Stanley was unable to travel and so could play a murderer on death row."

"I'm certainly no proselytiser for docile women. I have never known a docile woman"

The supermax US prison in which Tucci's killer awaits execution is really a set in England. "It was right next to David Tennant's vicarage."

Moffat has also written his first play, *The Unfriend*, which is transferring to the West End from Chichester. It was inspired by a true story. Two friends had just been on a cruise and fell in with an American woman whom they invited to stay with them in London. "Then they Googled her and found out she was a murderer." In reality, the couple revoked the invitation; the conceit of Moffat's play is that the English couple are too polite, too passive to do the same, and invite Frances Barber's Elsa into their home.

As we finish our chat, Moffat poses for pictures in the nearby graveyard of Wren's St James church. In his M&S suit, he looks unusually soigne. "I've always hated being photographed from the days when we'd do cast shots for Doctor Who and all these gorgeous people - Jenna, Matt - would be standing next to this plum duff," he says. "In the end I just went with it, turning up in old clothes with food spilled down my T-shirt, safe in the knowledge nobody was really looking at me." And he heads off through the rain to his lunch date at Bafta. I hope they let him back in. *Inside Man* begins on BBC One on Monday 26 September

Stanley Tucci (centre) in the first part of Moffat's Inside Man



'It puts you in touch with your own losses'

Why are so many of us mourning a woman we never met? Is it really about the Queen – or our private sorrows? And why does it help to share the pain? By **Emine Saner**

As many have noted, this period of national mourning has a peculiarly British tinge, with the rain, the queueing, the marmalade sandwiches. People stood through the night, in a miles-long line that ran through central London, to pay their last respects to the Queen, lying in state. The TV coverage was almost soothing in its bland repetition, and its sombre reverence unavoidable.

For those of us of a republican leaning, the whole thing can feel bizarre and alienating, but for many others, the depth of their feeling may have caught them by surprise. "We have a relationship with these public figures," says Julia Samuel, a psychotherapist who specialises in bereavement. The Queen, in particular, has "been the backdrop of our lives and this connecting thread. She's the symbol of the mother of the nation and a symbol of predictability, in such a changing, turbulent world. So we have a feeling of loss." Precisely because of the Queen's unknowability,

we project our emotions on to her. "There's a feeling of security in having a relationship with someone, particularly if you don't actually know them, because you can put on to them what you need," says Samuel.

We have come to know this outpouring of public emotion as collective grief. "The thing about collective grief is that it can put you in touch with your own losses," says Samuel. "It can be loss of a parent and it reminds you of your mum or dad dying, or it puts you in touch with your mortality. If you have unresolved losses, it can bring lots of other feelings, that aren't necessarily to do with the Queen, that can feel quite overwhelming because it goes to the same place."

Grief can be comforting, she says, when we are "feeling it at the same time. People feel bonded and have this sense of social safety, and of it reinforcing social ties. I think that's why in queueing for the vigil or going to the different palaces, people find that calming. What research shows is that when you have great experiences of loss, you do worse alone than when you have the love and connection to others." In a close bereavement, you would want this to be with friends and family, says Samuel. "But I also think there is something about

strangers feeling like they know each other when they're coming to put flowers at Buckingham Palace."

The ritual of this period of mourning has been important, says Samuel. "Rituals hold us together and they give us this sense of meaning. They're incredibly important in the process of grieving because part of the task of grieving is facing the reality of the loss." For the people who passed the Queen's coffin, some visibly upset, it's about confronting the loss, she says. "You can't know that someone has died – it's not surreal any more, which is often the first response to

death. And so that helps you adjust to this new reality. The relationship changes once you know they've died – you feel the pain of the loss, but also what can emerge is this idea of continuing bonds, that the memory of the person continues, and our affection or love, in some cases, for this person. The collective memory of the Queen will go on – for centuries, I would imagine."

We may also be mourning what we see as the loss of the Queen's values, says Kate Woodthorpe, the director of the Centre for Death and Society at the University of Bath. "Her loss is not necessarily about

her as an individual. It's about what she represented, which was stability, discretion, tolerance, pragmatism, diplomacy – things that feel under threat nowadays."

We think of collective grief as something new, experienced first in this country perhaps in that intense public emotion after the death in 1997 of another royal, Diana. "But it's not a new phenomenon," says David Kessler, a writer and expert on grief. "As far back as we can remember, we've gathered in the town square to talk about the most recent death." The sinking of the Titanic provoked collective grief, he points out. There were two world wars, and we remember victims of the Holocaust. In the mid-20th century, increased media coverage, especially on television, of events started to fuel our collective grief for individual figures. "We saw JFK's death," says Kessler. "We saw Princess Diana's death. Those became big moments."

The advent of digital media has supercharged this. "We can see the expressions of grief more," says Aleks Krotoski, a social psychologist. "Certainly in the context of the current moment, grief can be collective across a much, much greater geographical area. We're able to be in the space, as it were."

If you watched the people lining





the streets as the procession made its way to the Palace of Westminster, a large number were holding their phones up, recording the event. "This moment is on a scale that we've never seen, and we probably won't see again," says Woodthorpe. "It's about bearing witness to history - that's what I think a lot of this is about." Less benign, perhaps, is that there is something "about being seen to bear witness". As an academic, she has been fascinated by the performative aspect of some of the public grieving - the people who film themselves laying flowers, or take selfies. "Why are they doing it, to what end? Is it about celebrating the Queen and recognising her? Or is it about being a part of something? I suppose what social media has done is create the feeling that if you're not part of it, you're missing something significant."

As a society, we are more willing to bare our hearts than we once were. "Over the last 20 years, we have seen a much bigger recognition of the importance of mental health, and showing your emotion and talking about how you feel," says Woodthorpe. Grief, though, has largely remained a hidden and isolating experience for those going through it. Kessler believes the bigger scale

of collective grief, amplified on social media and in TV coverage, may help us to deal better with more personal losses. "Sometimes we have this belief that grief is weakness, and we don't talk as openly about it. My hope is that these huge losses that are collective give us more permission not just to talk about the Queen, but to talk more about our own mum and dad, and our other loved ones."

In developed societies, collective grief feels unusual - but it isn't in other cultures. "We have a very individualist sense of grief because our societies are quite fractured," says Susan Hemer, an anthropologist at the University of Adelaide. "Generally, when we have a family member die, the people around us are often not bereaved as well, and so it's a very individual experience. When you have a collective society - a group that lives more as a community - when somebody dies, generally that person is known to the whole community. The whole community is bereaved, and they all grieve together."

Much of Hemer's work has been in Papua New Guinea; after people's deaths there she saw "this real sense of stopping and sharing time together - just sitting together and talking, sharing food, and stories about the person. What's really

interesting is you can see that type of thing happening now. People are stopping, and they're talking about memories." In Australia, people are calling into radio stations with stories of meeting the Queen. "We're seeing, on a big scale, whole societies stopping - with public holidays - and reflecting. It's almost like, because she was such an important figure and known to everybody, we're doing in our societies what happens in these small collectivist societies."

Grief isn't just a feeling of sadness, Hemer points out, "but the other emotions that come up with it. We're also seeing some anxiety about the future. The world has been uncertain the last few years, and the Queen was a steady figure. We are seeing sadness at her passing but also anxiety about what happens now. I think you're going to see it in places like Australia - what happens to the Commonwealth?"

Clearly, not all collective griefs are equal. After the death of the Queen - a woman who lived a long life and died in the place she loved, with her family around her - the feeling that characterises this particular mourning period for many people, says Hemer, is a kind of "gentle sorrow". Kessler agrees: "We don't have the sense with the Queen that this is a tragedy. Rather, we feel like this is a life well lived. People who lived a long life, we want to celebrate them."

Other public experiences of loss have been characterised by shock and other emotions. "Usually with a life cut short, we have much more anger," says Kessler. That was the feeling with Diana, he says. There were other effects - suicide rates went up in the month after her funeral, particularly among young women.

Anger, shock and intense sadness followed tragedies such as the Dunblane massacre, 9/11 and the Grenfell disaster, as they did after the murder by a police officer of George Floyd in the US

in 2020. After the death of Floyd, feelings of anger and sadness in the US population "increased to unprecedented levels", wrote the researchers of a study into the emotional impact, while Black Americans, unsurprisingly, "reported significantly larger increases in depression and anxiety symptoms". The collective sadness, anger and grief after Grenfell and Floyd - and after the fatal shooting of Chris Kaba by armed police officers in London two weeks ago - fuelled demands for justice.

In October 2020, Fran Hall's husband, Steve, died from Covid. She is one of several thousand members of the Covid-19 Bereaved Families for Justice UK group, and the collective grief felt by the group, she says, has been both a source of strength - they successfully campaigned for a public inquiry into the UK's handling of the pandemic - and a comfort. "There has been no national collective recognition that more than 200,000 people are not here any more because of the pandemic. We just needed to find our kin, the people that understand exactly what we've experienced, can speak the same language. For many other people who haven't lost somebody specifically because of the pandemic, life goes on - everyone's keen to move forward. Whereas for those of us who have been bereaved as a result of Covid, it will never be behind us - it will always be very present."

Many of the people she has spoken to within the group tell of how conflicted they feel about the national mourning for the Queen, when they weren't able to participate in their own rituals following the deaths of loved ones - something Hall acknowledges the Queen experienced, too, after the death of her husband. "So to be now sharing in a nation that's united in grief is quite poignant. This collective mourning is like an outpouring of grief for a nation that's withheld their grief for a long time. It's triggering people's

“This moment is on a scale that we've never seen. It's about bearing witness to history”

memories of their losses, whether it was a bereavement recently, or 20 or 30 years ago."

When we speak, she is on her way to join the queue to pay her last respects to the Queen. "My mother was a tremendous fan of the royal family; I know that she would have been standing in that queue today if she'd still been alive," says Hall. "My husband was a police officer for 30 years in the Met and swore allegiance to the Queen - if he was still here, he'd be coming, too. I think many people are doing what we're doing to represent people who aren't with us any more. It's a magnification of individual personal grief."

And so Hall will queue, and at some point, as people move slowly forward, she and the many thousands of others will pass the National Covid Memorial Wall, where painted red hearts represent people who lost their lives to coronavirus, and which she helps to maintain every week as a volunteer. The wall, she says, "anchors all of that unacknowledged grief behind people's closed doors. It's a public representation of the scale of loss. For it to be part of the Embankment where the queue passes to go see the Queen lying in state, that's really poignant as well."



'Wherever I go, there seems to be violence and death'

From Vietnam to Biafra, he captured suffering with shocking power. The great photographer Don McCullin talks to **Stuart Jeffries** about his tough childhood, the film Angelina Jolie is making about him – and the shots that still haunt his sleep

Don McCullin was with a US soldier on the fortified walls surrounding the Vietnamese city of Hué one night when he noticed something in the dark. "A hand grenade had been tossed over. We both looked at it. Then the soldier went one way and I went the other. It exploded. I thought I'd lost my leg but I was lucky. The explosion hit the other guy, killed him. I photographed him dying with blood coming out of his nose and a river of blood coming out of his head because it blew the back of his skull out."

He shows me a new print he's made of that image, blood still

glistening 54 years on. That could have been you, I say. "Easily. The easiest thing in the world, you'd think, is pressing that button on the camera. It's not. It's the hardest thing. When I go to bed every night, I think about that battle." The photographer, now 86, is recalling the 1968 Tet offensive during which, he says, the ancient imperial city of Hué was destroyed by US forces in 12 days. "I would see their Phantom bombers coming at me unleashing napalm, which comes in a tube nearly the length of this room – and they'd be tumbling towards you."

We're sitting in a darkened room in his Somerset home, where he lives with his third wife, Catherine. On the terrace outside, it's an exquisite summer's day. From there, we could have sat and savoured the lush fields rolling down to the trout stream and the cider orchard beyond, a part of this 20-acre estate. But McCullin prefers

what he calls the "Rembrandt light" indoors. "I like my pictures to be dark and I like being in the dark." He never photographs Somerset in its summery pomp but waits for the winter. Then he heads to the Levels, the watery flatlands whipped by the west wind, to photograph the majestic bleakness.

When the war chronicler first tasked himself with capturing some English whimsy, darkness still followed him like a black dog. He was driving with his wife to Cambridge when he spotted a man in a top hat selling ice cream from a barrow. Mice were running around the brim of his headwear. Captivated, he asked to visit the man, called Snowy, at home to take his picture. "He put a mouse into his beard and it climbed into his mouth. Then he went away and came back with a big rake. I said, 'Snowy, that cat has just killed one of your mice.' He picked up the

cat and started bashing it like in Tom and Jerry. This old man who everybody thought was sweet is an illustration of the kind of people who are out there. Wherever I go, there seems to be violence and death. You can't miss in England."

Other images haunt him at night. A few months after surviving Hué, McCullin was covering the Biafran war in south-eastern Nigeria. "Can you imagine in Biafra a million died of starvation? I stood in front of 600 children at a school who were standing on legs that could barely carry them. They were dropping in front of me and dying." He pauses. "I'm talking as if I'm completely mad and a liar and imagining these things. I question myself all the time. But it did happen. I have the pictures to prove it."

We're meeting because Don McCullin CBE is being given a lifetime achievement medal by the London design festival. Previous winners include Vivienne Westwood, Dieter Rams and Richard Rogers. "It's nice to feel the work you've done over 60 odd years is welcome," he says.

Susan Sontag once praised McCullin's "exemplary, gut-wrenching work". She wrote: "There can be no doubt of the intentions of this tenacious,



'I think about that battle every night' ...
a McCullin shot of US soldiers sheltering in Hué

“For my father to die weighing seven stone and enfeebled by asthma told me there was no God

impassioned witness, bringing back his news from hell. He wants to sadden. He means to arouse." Not everyone agreed. "I once went to the BBC to do an interview and the engineer walked off, saying, 'I'm not going to be in the same room as that bastard who makes his living photographing victims of war.' And I said, 'That's perfectly understandable.' It was the only time I can recall that I was attacked. I'm astonished it hasn't happened more often."

Has he profited from others' suffering? "I certainly feel guilty. I'm constantly persecuting myself with thoughts that make me uncomfortable. They snatch away the joy I could probably have enjoyed. But your moral compass has to have some balance. You can't just fill your pockets with gold. I think that's why my pictures are so disturbing-looking."

I suggest it may also be because so many of his subjects are looking right back at the camera. I'm thinking of such renowned images as the shell-shocked US marine in Hué in 1968; or the image captioned "Tormented, homeless Irishman, Spitalfields, London, 1969"; or the nameless Cambodian boy, his chest hideously lacerated, lying in a bed at an overcrowded

Phnom Penh hospital in 1975. "The story totally comes from their eyes," he agrees. "I've almost encouraged people just to look at me, because they will tell you the story without opening their mouths. I did a lot of action photographs, of men throwing grenades. But that's Hollywood in a way. That's not the image of war. War is the human face. That is the story of war. It's what the face tells you of the soul."

McCullin traces his lifelong obsession with depicting human suffering to his rough childhood in London. "People say to me Finsbury Park has been gentrified. I say it's not possible." Well, there's a Gail's bakery now, as well as a cinema, a theatre and a thriving al fresco coffee culture. The eyes of McCullin, through bushy brows, look doubtful.

"There was always fighting. You fought, you got terrible hidings, then you went home and Mum gave you a hiding." Of all the horrible stories he tells me from those days, one stands out. I laugh as he tells me about "the slightly mad boy" who bit a police dog. Then, typically, McCullin wipes the smile off my face. "He was so disturbed that he hanged himself. The idea that someone hanged themselves

in a flower shop, which is meant to give joy ... It was as if someone was constantly tripping you over. As a poor person, I think the beginning of your life is continual betrayal."

He left school early and got wanderlust, first working in the restaurant cars of London to Manchester trains, then doing national service in the RAF, where he also picked up the rudiments of photography. "I failed the RAF photography theory exam because I couldn't explain what I knew."

Among the hooligans and ex-cons he hung out with as a kid were a bunch of dapper hardcases known as The Guvnors. He shot them in the ruins of a building in 1958, posed and scary in their Sunday suits. He sold the picture to the Observer and the picture editor liked it so much that McCullin was soon being sent on foreign assignments, first to Berlin, then Cyprus. He spent his 1960s and 1970s in a blur of horror: Biafra,



'I don't want to be idle' ...
McCullin in his studio with our writer

Vietnam, Northern Ireland, Beirut, Bangladesh. The world rendered in black and white, darkness sweeping over every frame.

Some have supposed McCullin a Catholic, compelled to bear witness to human suffering and tormented with guilt for doing so. He denies that. "I was 13 when my father died. He meant a lot to me. But for him to die weighing seven stone and enfeebled by asthma told me there was no God."

Still, his photographs of war and suffering had a moral aim, which he once described as to "break the hearts and spirits of secure people". Today he says: "There is no photojournalism any more." He sees nothing to impress him in photographs that have emerged from Ukraine, and derides Annie Leibovitz for her recent Vogue magazine portraits of Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelenskiy and first lady Olena Zelenska. Photojournalism, he believes, was once an invitation to pay attention, but now focuses on things that don't deserve it: not much impassioned tenacity in that Vogue shoot, little to unsettle the secure.

Photojournalism died, at least for McCullin, 40 years ago when two things happened. Andrew Neil fired him from the Sunday Times where, until Rupert Murdoch took over the paper, he had spent 18 fulfilling years under the editorship of the legendary Harold Evans. And in 1982 he was refused permission to sail with the British task force to the Falklands, probably for fear that his MO of depicting human suffering was inimical to the propaganda the government sought to relay. Photography, McCullin thinks, has dealt in celebrity and propaganda ever since, the very things his work stood out against.

He has no interest in plundering his own life for material. He has no selfies, no Instagram. He tells me that all the sons from his three marriages are 6ft tall and always stand on tiptoes to make him look smaller in family snapshots. But he doesn't show me anything from the family album. It's off limits. "I live very privately and I don't get anyone bothering me. I like it that way."

McCullin describes his West Country home as a sanctuary from the horrors of the world. "I've got that landscape where I can walk out and, like a snake, feel like I'm shedding a guilty skin." Yet his life has had its tragedies. On his first son's wedding day, 30-odd years ago, he woke up on the sofa: he and his first wife Christine were sleeping separately because he'd had an affair. "I went up to her room and she was sitting up in bed and she was dead," he says. "I put my arm around her and she was warm at the back and cold at the front and it was seven in the morning on a perfect summer's day. I thought I could handle anything and it was a real kick in the teeth."

Evans once wrote of his chief photographer that he may seem like a "macho man in combat gear, but Don McCullin is an aesthete". McCullin has just completed a long project about the sites of the

“I certainly feel guilty. I persecute myself with uncomfortable thoughts

Roman Empire, that took him from Hadrian's Wall to Palmyra in Syria. And he takes a moral lesson from what he photographs, namely the barbarism beneath civilisation's facade; the ugliness that made its splendour possible. "The Romans were always at war so when I stand in front of the great Roman sites, I don't feel comfortable - because I'm enjoying myself. 'Hold on a minute,' I think. 'Wasn't that created by slave labour?' And it usually was. The guilt thing is recognising it's beautiful, and that I'm trying to make it even more beautiful in my pictures. Should I do that? What do I do? Just put my camera in the bag and don't do it?"

Now that his Roman series is complete, he has a yearning to photograph the Parthenon Marbles. He wants to keep working but can't spend as much time in his beloved darkroom as he'd like because the chemicals are bad for his health. He suffers from asthma and had a toe amputated last year. "Didn't do any good." He shows me his latest work: huge and lovely images of classical statues from museums around the world, made into inkjet prints by a friend. He's having to learn to cede control to others.

Among those others is actor, director and UN special envoy for refugees Angelina Jolie. She invited McCullin to Rome to discuss her plan to make a film of his life, based on his 2002 autobiography *Unreasonable Behaviour*. Tom Hardy was rumoured to be lined up to play him, but was apparently deemed too old. "She's an incredibly lovely woman," says McCullin. "She's determined to make this. She said, 'I've got an office in LA with all your pictures on the wall.'"

McCullin declines to suggest who should play him. "We'll see. I'm too old to have any ambitions and desires about my life. It's nearly over. I don't want to be idle though. I've got plans to go to all kinds of places. I don't want to sit in this house waiting to die."

Later, he drives me and our photographer to the station, racing to make the train. "I love this," he shouts as we barrel along the Somerset lanes. "The adrenaline!" It reminds of him of the thrill of war photography, the excitement of kicking down doors and being where he shouldn't be. "I loved it. I'd never complain about it. I'm the one who sought out this life." *The London design festival runs until 25 September.*



James Nesbitt as Tom Brannick, with Charlene McKenna as Niamh McGovern

Review Bloodlands, BBC One

More twists and dark secrets – along with classic Nesbitt eye acting

★★★★★

Jack Seale



I f all crime dramas need a distinguishing gimmick to draw punters in, *Bloodlands* – which is back for a second series – arrived last year with three. James Nesbitt has long since been part of that top echelon of TV actors whose casting is a selling point on its own. The show's location, Northern Ireland, promised to offer not just chilly landscapes but a deeper dramatic purpose, steeped in the region's recent history. And, while critics readied their clichés about the setting almost constituting a separate character in the drama, there was a further sweetener: Jed "Line of Duty" Mercurio's production company had made it, suggesting fiendish plotting to get lost in.

A hit duly followed, nicely dark and paranoid in tone, with a narrative that pulled off the classic whodunnit trick of making us forget the most likely answer to the riddle. DCI Tom Brannick (Nesbitt) investigated a kidnapping, the details of which mirrored a politically explosive old mystery from 1998, when the wounds of the Troubles were raw: a criminal mastermind known as Goliath had caused four people with links to the Royal Ulster Constabulary or the IRA to disappear, including Brannick's wife. Ah, said everyone who's seen a crime drama before: it's him. Nesbitt. He'll turn out to be Goliath. Then an episode-two shocker saw Brannick shoot a supporting character in the face for knowing too much, at which point we assumed him being Goliath was so obvious it couldn't be true. A couple of eventful, twist-filled instalments later, we were somehow excited to be told that Brannick was Goliath after all.

As satisfying as the answer was to the question of whether Brannick was a killer, the fact that it has been dealt with does rather jam a stick in the spokes of season two. Brannick's colleagues may not know he's bent, but we do. "Is he dirty?" has been replaced by "Will he be found out?", a less compelling unknown.

The new run does what it must, which is to give Brannick a new secret. We flash back to that pivotal day in 1998, where the Brannick of 24 years ago is conjured up via a combination of some intense balaclava work from Nesbitt, and then some CGI to artificially revive a wrinkle-free Jimmy N circa *Cold Feet*. We knew Brannick had been press-ganged into carrying out a hit on gun-runners but now, upon seeing his younger self do the deed, we learn that the shipment of arms he intercepted also contained gold bars.

Roll the opening titles – then immediately it's crime-scene time. Here in 2022, there has been a murder and, if the excessively doomy music didn't give it away, season one tells us one thing for certain: whoever the victim is, Brannick is going to know more about them than he lets on. Some more top-level eye acting from Nesbitt – Brannick's alarm is hidden from the other police officers by his full crime-scene PPE, complete with face mask – underlines it. The big man has another big lie to tell.

The body is Colin, an accountant who was the custodian of Brannick's bullion. Brannick and his increasingly suspicious sidekick, DS Niamh McGovern (Charlene McKenna), drive off to break the news to the dead guy's wife. As played by Victoria Smurfit, the icy blond Olivia is everything one expects from a generic crime-drama widow: floating immaculately around a windswept, glass-fronted mansion, she is too cool, too inscrutable and, as the script heavily flags in case we weren't seeing it, too sexual to be straightforwardly grieving. Brannick soon wangles it so that he is visiting the house alone to look for more information; that old Nesbitt twinkle, previously obscured by Brannick's haunted cragginess, briefly flickers.

Bloodlands 2 might have a dual story, with the hunt for Colin's killer layered below the question of whether Brannick can recover his loot undetected, but it no longer has the added heft and relevance that the Goliath plotline provided, tapping as it did into the post-Brexit fear that Northern Ireland's smothered resentments might spring violently back to life. Without that veneer of seriousness, the show's real identity as a genre piece about an in-too-deep maverick cop is revealed: the conveniently placed clues and particularly the cast's reliance on pained looks and sly side-eyes becomes hilariously noticeable. The latter reaches a peak in a laugh-out-loud scene where Brannick, McGovern and Olivia get into a Mexican standoff of meaningful stares.

Nesbitt himself, meanwhile, nervily spinning the steering wheel of Brannick's Volvo or jabbing at a burner phone like a doomed *Line of Duty* constable, no longer has a role that befits his marquee billing. *Bloodlands* has fallen back down to earth.

The State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II

8am, BBC One



The Queen will be laid to rest today, with the procession starting at 10.44am when the coffin will be taken from Westminster Hall to Westminster Abbey in London. The funeral itself will begin at 11am with family members, senior UK politicians and heads of state from across the world in attendance. Afterwards, the coffin will travel to Wellington Arch, from where it will go to Windsor. A hearse will take the coffin along the Long Walk to St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle for the committal service.

Hollie Richardson

Jamie's One-Pan Wonders

8.30pm, Channel 4

Jamie Oliver continues to boast about what he can do in a big pan. Tonight, he is putting his own spin on lemongrass chicken, serving up sweet potato chilli with homemade nachos and showing us what sugary magic can happen when using tinned mandarin in a chocolate party cake recipe. HR

24 Hours in A&E

9pm, Channel 4

There's a trio of unlucky teenagers in need of St George's hospital's services this evening:

Anthony has come off his motor scooter while celebrating his 18th birthday; 16-year-old Jack has multiple fractures after an electric scooter accident; and 13-year-old Josh has twisted his ankle at school. HR

House of the Dragon

9pm, Sky Atlantic

Incest is a rite of passage for the royals of Westeros. Now that Rhaenyra can tick off "dalliance with Uncle Daemon", as well as "racy night with Ser

Criston Cole", she is ready to choose her husband. Criston, however, can't kiss and forget as easily. HR

Question Team

10pm, Dave

Season two of the quiz, in which Richard Ayoade's guests take turns to set questions, continues. This week goes way beyond the usual panel show boilerplate, with Holly Walsh rebooting Robot Wars, a Jonathan Ross crash course in superheroes and Desriee Burch overseeing a truly unmissable round on cartoons. Graeme Virtue

Second Hand for a Grand

10pm, Channel 4

The observational documentary series about Xupes – a business that sells pre-owned luxury items – continues. Tonight, "head of handbags" Reece is on the hunt for a Chanel backpack for a movie actor, while longtime big-spending customer Julia decides to live a more modest life and invest in some chickens. HR



And another thing

Dip back into one of the big TV controversies of the 1980s: Alan Bleasdale's *The Monocled Mutineer*, starring Paul McGann, has resurfaced on BritBox

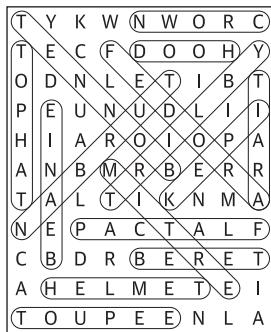
BBC One	BBC Two	ITV	Channel 4	Channel 5	BBC Four
<p>6.0 Breakfast (T) 8.0 The State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II (T) 5.0 News (T) 5.50 Regional News and Weather (T) 6.15 The One Show: Our Queen Remembered (T) 6.50 Film Paddington 2 (Paul King, 2017) (T) The lovable bear's search for the perfect birthday present for his aunt leads to being framed as a thief. Comedy adventure, with Ben Whishaw providing the voice of Paddington.</p>	<p>6.30 Money for Nothing (T) (R) 7.15 Antiques Road Trip (T) (R) 8.0 Sign Zone: The State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II (T) 5.0 Flog It! (T) (R) 6.0 Richard Osman's House of Games (T) 6.30 Unbeatable (T) 7.0 Mastermind (T) 7.30 Only Connect (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Good Morning Britain (T) 9.30 Queen Elizabeth II: The State Funeral (T) 6.0 Local News (T) 7.0 Evening News (T) 7.30 Queen Elizabeth II: A Nation Remembers (T)</p>	<p>6.10 Countdown (T) (R) 6.50 3rd Rock from the Sun (T) (R) 7.40 Everybody Loves Raymond (T) (R) 9.0 Frasier (T) (R) 10.30 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (T) (R) 11.25 News (T) 11.30 The Great House Giveaway (T) (R) 12.30 Steph's Packed Lunch (T) 2.10 Countdown (T) 3.0 A Place in the Sun (T) (R) 4.0 Chateau DIY (T) 5.0 Moneybags (T) 6.0 The Simpsons (T) (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks (T) (R) 7.0 News (T)</p>	<p>6.0 Milkshake! 8.35 Fireman Sam: Norman Price and the Mystery in the Sky (T) (R) 9.35 Film Thomas & Friends: Race for the Sodor Cup (2021) (T) 10.35 The Adventures of Paddington (T) (R) 11.0 TBA 12.45 Holiday Homes in the Sun (T) 1.40 News (T) 1.45 Home and Away (T) (R) 2.15 Film The Stranger in My Home (David DeCoteau, 2020) (T) 4.0 Bargain Loving Brits By the Sea (T) (R) 5.0 News (T) 6.0 Cash in the Attic (T) 7.0 Police Interceptors (R)</p>	
<p>8.30 The State Funeral of HM Queen Elizabeth II: Events of the Day (T) A look back at the day's events from Westminster Abbey and St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle, as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest.</p>	<p>8.0 University Challenge (T) Coventry University take on Cardiff University. 8.30 Film The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society (Mike Newell, 2018) An author of detective fiction makes some life-changing friends at a local literary society. Drama, starring Lily James, and Tom Courtenay.</p>	<p>9.0 Queen Elizabeth II: The Final Farewell (T) James Mates narrates a look back at the day's events, as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was laid to rest.</p>	<p>8.0 Food Unwrapped (T) Amanda Byram explores how peas could solve the plastic pollution problem. 8.30 Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (T) Jamie Oliver makes a gnocchi supper, and giant spicy meatballs. 9.0 24 Hours in A&E (T) Anthony is rushed to resus after coming off his motor scooter.</p>	<p>8.0 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders (T) PC Waddington tries to catch up with a speeding SUV. 9.0 Police: Suspect No 1 (T) Return of the documentary that follows detectives from the start of an investigation to the moment suspects are confronted with the evidence.</p>	<p>8.0 Art of Persia (T) (R) Broadcaster and journalist Samira Ahmed reveals how Iran preserved its distinctive language and culture. 9.0 The Search for a New Earth (R) Stephen Hawking, Danielle George, and Christophe Galfard examine the possibility of humans inhabiting other planets.</p>
<p>10.0 News (T) 11.0 Regional News and Weather 11.25 Ellie & Natasia (T) (R) The Brothers Pomodoro return. 11.40 Ellie & Natasia (T) (R) The Internet Nails gang hand out special awards. 11.55 The Hit List Celebrity Special (T) (R) A Strictly special. 12.40 Weather for the Week Ahead (T) 12.45 BBC News (T)</p>	<p>10.30 Martin Compston's Scottish Fling (T) (R) The actor is given a taste of island life. 11.0 All That Glitters: Britain's Next Jewellery Star (T) (R) The jewellers have to make a best-selling brooch. 12.0 Sign Zone Celebrity MasterChef (T) (R) 1.0 How to With John Wilson (T) (R) 1.30 This Is BBC Two (T)</p>	<p>10.0 News (T) Tom Bradby presents a round-up of the day's events, as the state funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II took place in Westminster. 12.0 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite (T) 1.40 Shop: Ideal World 3.0 Dickinson's Real Deal (T) (R) 3.50 Unwind With ITV (T) 5.05 Tenable (T) (R)</p>	<p>10.0 Second Hand for 50 Grand 11.05 UEFA Nations League Magazine Show (T) 11.35 Walter Presents: Sisterhood 12.35 999: On the Front Line (T) (R) 1.30 Couples Come Dine With Me (T) (R) 2.20 Film Pebbles (2021) 3.35 My Grandparents' War (T) (R) 4.30 Grand Designs (T) (R) 5.25 Drawers Off (T) (R)</p>	<p>10.0 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts (T) (R) 11.05 999: Critical Condition (R) 12.05 Police Interceptors (T) (R) 1.0 Live NFL: Monday Night Football (T) 4.30 Entertainment News on 5 (T) 4.40 Wildlife SOS (T) (R) 5.05 Wildlife SOS (T) (R) 5.30 Peppa Pig (T) (R) 5.35 Paw Patrol (T) (R)</p>	<p>10.30 Clydebuilt: The Ships That Made the Commonwealth (T) (R) David Hayman tells the story of the Cutty Sark. 11.30 Ian Hislop's Fake News: A True History (T) (R) 12.30 The Celts: Blood, Iron and Sacrifice With Alice Roberts and Neil Oliver (R) 1.30 Great American Railroad Journeys (T) (R) 2.30 Art of Persia (R)</p>

Other channels

BBC Three	E4	ITV	Radio	
<p>7.0pm Top Gear 8.0 Dubai Hustle 8.30 Nail Bar Boys 9.0 Top Gear 10.0 Top Gear 11.0 Cuckoo 11.25 Cuckoo 12.20 Nail Bar Boys 12.50 Top Gear 1.50 Cuckoo 2.15 Cuckoo 2.40 The Rap Game UK</p> <p>Dave 6.20am Driving Wars 7.10 Yianni: Super-car Customiser 8.0 Border Force: America's Gatekeepers 9.0 Storage Hunters UK 10.0 Sin City Motors 11.0 Expedition With Steve Backshall 12.0 Bangers and Cash 1.0 Border Force: America's Gatekeepers 2.0 Top Gear USA Special 3.0 Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul 4.0 Top Gear 5.0 Rick Stein: From Venice to Istanbul 6.0 Taskmaster 7.0 Richard Osman's House of Games 7.40 Room 101 8.20 Would I Lie to You? 9.0 QI XL 10.0 Question Team. With Jonathan Ross, Holly Walsh, and Desiree Burch. Jonathan Ross, Holly Walsh, and Desiree Burch. 11.0 Would I Lie to You? 11.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You 12.40 QI 1.20 QI XL 2.30 Room 101 3.0 Room 101 4.0 Teleshopping</p> <p>Film4 11.0am Film The Long Ships (1963) Viking adventure, starring Richard Widmark and Sidney Poitier. 1.35 Film Destroy Rides Again (1939) Comedy Western, with James Stewart and Marlene Dietrich. 3.25 Film Hatari! (1962)</p>	<p>6.0am Hollyoaks 7.0 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 8.0 Black-ish 9.0 How I Met Your Mother 10.0 The Big Bang Theory 11.0 Young Sheldon 11.30 Young Sheldon 12.0 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 12.30 Brooklyn Nine-Nine 1.0 The Big Bang Theory 3.0 Young Sheldon 3.30 Young Sheldon 4.0 Teen First Dates 5.0 The Big Bang Theory 5.30 The Big Bang Theory 6.0 The Big Bang Theory 6.30 The Big Bang Theory 7.30 Hollyoaks 7.30 The Big Bang Theory 8.0 Below Deck: Mediterranean 9.0 Married at First Sight UK 10.0 Celeb Cooking School 11.05 Gogglebox 12.10 First Dates Hotel 1.15 Married at First Sight 1.20 Celeb Cooking School 3.10 Below Deck 4.05 Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA 4.55 Brooklyn Nine-Nine</p> <p>ITV2 6.0am Good Morning Britain 9.30 Queen Elizabeth II: The State Funeral 6.0 TBA 7.0 ITV Evening News 7.30 Queen Elizabeth II: A Nation Remembers 9.0 Queen Elizabeth II: The Final Farewell 10.0 Pigeons 9.0 The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II 5.0 Treasures of the British Library 6.0 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 7.0 Inside Art: Glyn Philpot at Pallant House 7.30 André Rieu: Welcome to My World 8.30 Film The Lost Leonardo (2020) 10.25 Comedy Legends 11.25 Stargate SG-1 8.30 Rob & Romesh Vs NBA Basketball 9.30 The Ultimate Romcom Movies 10.30 The Funeral Art:</p> <p>Sky Max 6.0am Highway Patrol 6.30 Stargate SG-1 7.30 The South Bank Show 1.0 Mystery of the Lost Paintings 2.0 Royal Academy: Painting the Future 3.30 Inside Art:</p> <p>Sky Max 6.0am Highway Patrol 6.30 Stargate SG-1 7.30 The South Bank Show 1.0 Mystery of the Lost Paintings 2.0 Royal Academy: Painting the Future 3.30 Inside Art:</p>	<p>Comedy adventure, starring John Wayne. 6.35 Film Sahara (2005) Adventure, starring Matthew McConaughey. 9.0 Film World War Z (2013) Zombie thriller, starring Brad Pitt. 11.15 Film Maze Runner: The Scorch Trials (2015) Sci-fi adventure sequel, starring Dylan O'Brien. 1.55 Film God's Own Country (2017) Drama, starring Josh O'Connor and Alec Secareanu.</p> <p>ITV2 6.0am Good Morning Britain 9.30 Queen Elizabeth II: The State Funeral 6.0 TBA 7.0 ITV Evening News 7.30 Queen Elizabeth II: A Nation Remembers 9.0 Queen Elizabeth II: The Final Farewell 10.0 Pigeons 9.0 The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II 5.0 Treasures of the British Library 6.0 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 7.0 Inside Art: Glyn Philpot at Pallant House 7.30 André Rieu: Welcome to My World 8.30 Film The Lost Leonardo (2020) 10.25 Comedy Legends 11.25 Stargate SG-1 8.30 Rob & Romesh Vs NBA Basketball 9.30 The Ultimate Romcom Movies 10.30 The Funeral Art:</p> <p>Sky Arts 6.0am A London Dream 7.0 Rachmaninov: Rhapsody/The Two Pigeons 9.0 The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II 5.0 Treasures of the British Library 6.0 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 7.0 Inside Art: Glyn Philpot at Pallant House 7.30 André Rieu: Welcome to My World 8.30 Film The Lost Leonardo (2020) 10.25 Comedy Legends 11.25 Stargate SG-1 8.30 Rob & Romesh Vs NBA Basketball 9.30 The Ultimate Romcom Movies 10.30 The Funeral Art:</p> <p>Sky Max 6.0am Highway Patrol 6.30 Stargate SG-1 7.30 The South Bank Show 1.0 Mystery of the Lost Paintings 2.0 Royal Academy: Painting the Future 3.30 Inside Art:</p>	<p>Queen Elizabeth II 1.30 Anthony Joshua Vs Rob & Romesh 2.30 Flintoff: From Lord's to the Ring 3.30 Flintoff: From Lord's to the Ring 4.30 Flintoff: From Lord's to the Ring 5.30 Stargate SG-1 6.30 Stargate SG-1 7.30 Cricket's Funniest Moments 8.0 Resident Alien 9.0 Cobra: Cyberwar 10.0 Brassic 11.0 A League of Their Own 12.0 The Ultimate Romcom Movies 1.0 NCIS: New Orleans 2.0 NCIS: New Orleans 3.0 Hawaii Five-O 4.0 MacGyver 5.0 Highway Patrol 5.30 Highway Patrol</p> <p>Sky Atlantic 6.0am Urban Secrets 6.50 Urban Secrets 7.45 Boardwalk Empire 8.50 Boardwalk Empire 10.0 Micro Monsters With David Attenborough 10.30 The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II 1.30 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets 2.30 Richard E Grant's Hotel Secrets 3.0 Boardwalk Empire 4.40 Boardwalk Empire 5.45 The Sopranos 7.55 Game of Thrones 9.0 House of the Dragon 10.10 Gangs of London 11.15 House of the Dragon 12.25 The Nevers 1.40 Irma Vep 2.45 I Hate Suzie 3.30 In Treatment 4.0 Urban Secrets 5.0 Urban Secrets</p> <p>Sky Arts 6.0am A London Dream 7.0 Rachmaninov: Rhapsody/The Two Pigeons 9.0 The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II 5.0 Treasures of the British Library 6.0 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 6.30 Alfred Hitchcock Presents 7.0 Inside Art: Glyn Philpot at Pallant House 7.30 André Rieu: Welcome to My World 8.30 Film The Lost Leonardo (2020) 10.25 Comedy Legends 11.25 Stargate SG-1 8.30 Rob & Romesh Vs NBA Basketball 9.30 The Ultimate Romcom Movies 10.30 The Funeral Art:</p> <p>Sky Max 6.0am Highway Patrol 6.30 Stargate SG-1 7.30 The South Bank Show 1.0 Mystery of the Lost Paintings 2.0 Royal Academy: Painting the Future 3.30 Inside Art:</p> <p>Paddington 2, BBC One</p>	<p>Radio 3 6.30am Breakfast 9.0 Essential Classics 11.0 The State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Coverage of the ceremony. 12.0 Essential Classics 1.0 A Sequence of Music With Penny Gore 4.0 Micro Monsters With David Attenborough 10.30 The Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II. Coverage of the service. 5.0 In Tune 7.0 In Tune Mixtape. An eclectic non-stop mix of music. 7.30 Radio 3 in Concert. On the evening of the state funeral for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. 11.0 Night Tracks 12.30 Through the Night</p> <p>Radio 4 6.0am Today 9.0 The State Funeral of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Live coverage of the processions and Service from Westminster Abbey. 1.30 The World at One. News, analysis and comment, with Sarah Montague. 2.30 The Service of Committal of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Live coverage of the service. 5.0 In Tune 7.0 In Tune Mixtape. An eclectic non-stop mix of music. 7.30 Radio 3 in Concert. On the evening of the state funeral for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Danièle Jalowicka presents a programme of reflective choral music, mostly recorded in the chapel of King's College, Cambridge, Stephen Cleobury conducts the BBC Singers and BBC Concert Orchestra in a performance of Maurice Duruflé's Requiem, alongside a recording by chief conductor Sofi Jeannin of Hubert Parry's six motets that make up the Songs of Farewell. Other pieces include Kristina Arakelyan: Echo from Seascapes (Ben Palmer, conductor); Imogen Holst: A Hymne to Christ (conductor David Hill); and Kerensa Briggs: Hear My Prayer. (conductor Sofi Jeannin).</p> <p>Radio 4 Extra 6.0am Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery 4.8/5 Agatha Raisin (6/6) 7.0 Hazelbeach (3/6) 9.0 Batman and Ethan (R) 9.30 Cold As a Mountain Top (R) 10.0 The World Tonight 10.45 Poetry Extra 9.0 Desert</p> <p>Radio 5 6.0am Breakfast 9.0 Essential Classics 11.0 In Suburbia: Nothing Looks the Same. Ian Hislop visits Ealing, home to a hugely diverse community who all value exactly the same things that were valued when the suburbs first began to expand in the late 19th century. He asks whether the new communities will change the suburbs or if the natural isolation of the suburban semi will forge a new generation of suburban culture. Last in the series. (R) 11.30 The Psalms (R) 12.0 News and Weather 12.30 Book of the Week: Fen, Bog & Swamp - Discursive Thoughts on Wetlands (R) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.0 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather 6.0 Six O'Clock News 6.30 North By Northamptonshire (R) 7.0 The Archers 7.15 Front Row: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Samira Ahmed explores the composer, born 150 years ago 8.0 Beyond Belief (R) 8.30 Crossing Continents: Sleepless in Seoul (R) 9.0 Batman and Ethan (R) 9.30 Cold As a Mountain Top (R) 10.0 The World Tonight 10.45 Poetry Extra 9.0 Desert</p>
			<p>Book at Bedtime: Stone Blind. By Natalie Haynes. (1/10) 11.0 In Suburbia: Nothing Looks the Same. Ian Hislop visits Ealing, home to a hugely diverse community who all value exactly the same things that were valued when the suburbs first began to expand in the late 19th century. He asks whether the new communities will change the suburbs or if the natural isolation of the suburban semi will forge a new generation of suburban culture. Last in the series. (R) 11.30 The Psalms (R) 12.0 News and Weather 12.30 Book of the Week: Fen, Bog & Swamp - Discursive Thoughts on Wetlands (R) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.0 As BBC World Service 5.20 Shipping Forecast 5.57 Weather 6.0 Six O'Clock News 6.30 North By Northamptonshire (R) 7.0 The Archers 7.15 Front Row: Ralph Vaughan Williams. Samira Ahmed explores the composer, born 150 years ago 8.0 Beyond Belief (R) 8.30 Crossing Continents: Sleepless in Seoul (R) 9.0 Batman and Ethan (R) 9.30 Cold As a Mountain Top (R) 10.0 The World Tonight 10.45 Poetry Extra 9.0 Desert</p> <p>Island Discs 9.45 David Attenborough's Life Stories 10.0 September Tide 11.0 TED Radio Hour (25/52) 11.50 The Frederica Quartet - Omnibus (6/6) 1.0 Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (4/8) 1.30 Agatha Raisin (6/6) 2.0 Dr Hannah Fry: Codebreaker (1/3) 3.0 TBA 6.0 The Slide (4/7) 6.30 A Good Read (9/9) 7.0 Round the Horne (10/20) 7.30 Yes Minister (6/8) 8.0 Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (4/8) 8.30 Agatha Raisin (6/6) 9.0 TED Radio Hour (25/52) 9.50 Inheritance Tracks 10.0 Comedy Club: Mark Steel's in Town (4/6) 10.30 Rubbish (3/6) 11.0 Chain Reaction (4/4) 11.30 Lionel Nimrod's Inexplicable World (1/6) 12.0 The Slide (4/7) 12.30 A Good Read (9/9) 1.0 Paul Temple and the Jonathan Mystery (4/8) 1.30 Agatha Raisin (6/6) 2.0 In Montparnasse (1/5) 2.15 Eleanor Rising (1/5) 2.30 Rock 'n' Roll in Four Movements 3.0 A Capital Case: Karl Marx Meets Sherlock Holmes 4.0 Dilemma (6/6) 4.30 Country Matters (3/6) 5.0 Hazelbeach (3/6) 5.30 Mark Steel's in Town (4/6)</p>	

Friday's solutions

Wordsearch



Sudoku no 5,787

5	2	9	8	7	3	4	1	6
7	3	6	1	2	4	5	9	8
8	1	4	5	9	6	3	2	7
4	6	2	9	3	8	1	7	5
9	5	3	7	4	1	8	6	2
1	8	7	6	5	2	9	4	3
3	7	1	4	6	5	2	8	9
6	4	5	2	8	9	7	3	1
2	9	8	3	1	7	6	5	4

Suguru

1	2	4	3	1	2
3	5	1	2	4	5
1	2	4	5	3	1
3	5	3	1	4	2
4	1	4	2	5	1
5	2	3	1	3	2

Word wheel
RACETRACKSaturday's Quick crossword
Solution no 16,338

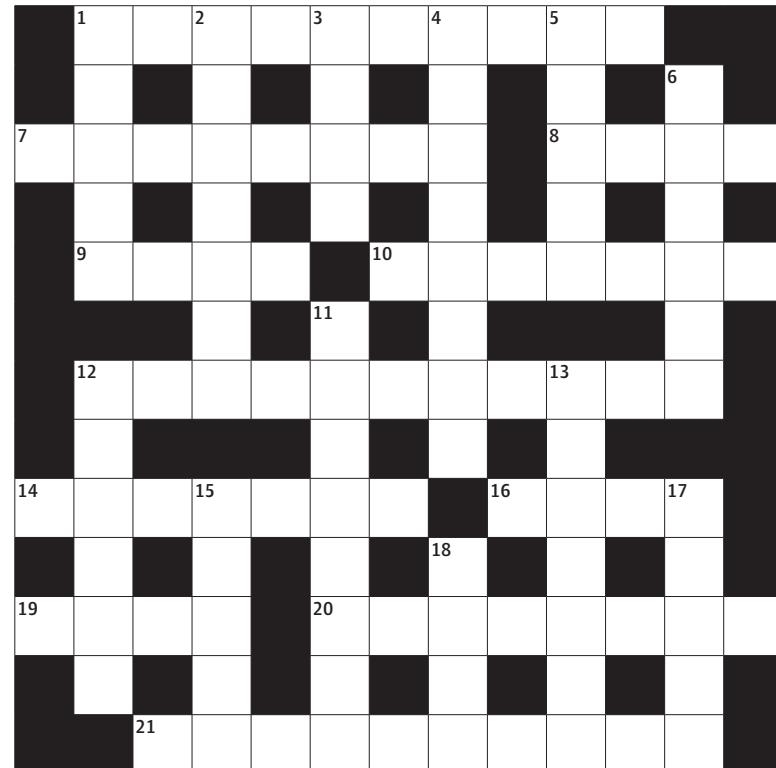
Quick crossword no 16,339

Across

1 Stout staff used by mountain climbers (10)
 7 Thorny shrub with red blossoms, native to Japan (8)
 8 Something used in baking and roasting (4)
 9 Hoofed grazer (4)
 10 Area that includes China, Mongolia, Korea, Japan and most of Siberia (3,4)
 12 Vicissitudes (3,3,5)
 14 Praise (7)
 16 Spike - insult (4)
 19 Injure and leave permanently disfigured (4)
 20 Bighead (8)
 21 Living side by side (2-8)

Down

1 Grant (5)
 2 Mastery (7)
 3 Hammered spike (4)
 4 Holder of leaves for a brew (3,5)
 5 Selected one thing rather than another (5)
 6 In opposition to (6)
 11 Holder of powdered tobacco (8)
 12 Transfer data from one computer to another (6)
 13 Quarrel bitterly (7)
 15 J's coded lover? (5)
 17 Explode (5)
 18 Raised platform (4)



Stuck? For help call 0906 200 83 83. Calls cost £1.10 per minute, plus your phone company's access charge. Service supplied by ATS. Call 0330 333 6946 for customer service (charged at standard rate). To buy puzzle books, visit guardianbookshop.com or call 0330 333 6846.

Sudoku no 5,791

Easy. Fill the grid so that each row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9. Printable version at theguardian.com/sudoku

				2				
				3	6	1	2	
1								
				3				
9	3	7				1		
2	3				8	4		
8	6	9					7	
				6	2			
4					8	9	3	
				1				

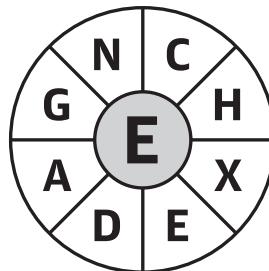
Suguru

Fill the grid so that each square in an outlined block contains a digit. A block of 2 squares contains the digits 1 and 2, a block of three squares contains the digits 1, 2 and 3, and so on. No same digit appears in neighbouring squares, not even diagonally.

				4				
					2			
2	3				5	4		
				4				
				3				

Word wheel

Find as many words as possible using the letters in the wheel. Each must use the central letter and at least two others. Letters may be used only once. You may not use plurals, foreign words or proper nouns. There is at least one nine-letter word to be found. TARGET: Excellent-35. Good-29. Average-21.



Wordsearch

Can you find 15 words associated with pubs in the grid? Words can run forwards, backwards, vertically or diagonally, but always in a straight, unbroken line.

X	S	E	L	T	T	O	B	N
M	T	K	A	R	A	O	K	E
I	I	H	N	P	P	C	H	I
X	N	T	G	U	I	C	I	G
E	M	O	M	U	N	N	L	G
R	E	P	B	U	A	A	T	E
S	A	T	L	A	S	R	R	L
T	S	O	N	S	R	E	D	B
R	U	H	E	E	D	R	C	A
A	R	S	D	I	I	N	E	T
D	E	E	C	S	T	O	O	L

Pet corner

What are the scales on a tortoise shell known as?

a. Putes
 b. Scutes
 c. Tunes
 d. Spunes

Answer top right

